

SCAN

In colour: PART TWO OF OUR
F.A. CUP WALLCHART
SHOT! 18p

20th JANUARY, 1979

*Queens Park Rangers
defender Ernie Howe
outjumps David Johnson
of Liverpool.*

**WREXHAM
TEAM GROUP
+ CLUB
SPOTLIGHT**

**Preview
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE CUP
Semi-Finals**



LEAGUE CUP

Unfortunately, SHOOT had to go to press before the result of the Watford v Stoke replay, so we arranged our interviews accordingly.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v STOKE CITY



'IT'LL BE TOUGH — WHOEVER WE MEET'

VIV ANDERSON (Forest)

I DON'T think it will be an easy passage for Forest in the League Cup Semi-Final, whether the opposition is Stoke City or Watford.

I base my reasoning on the fact both Stoke and Watford are strong promotion contenders in their respective Divisions, Stoke in the Second, and Watford in the Third. When I was playing for Forest reserves, I came up against Howard Kendall and Mike Doyle, and both impressed me.

And as a right-back, I realise I could have a busy time against the Stoke or Watford forwards. Watford have a knack of scoring freely, and as they beat Manchester United in the League Cup at Old Trafford earlier in the competition, they must feel they have a chance against us.

As the first-leg of the Semi-Final is on our ground, our opponents will be able to assess exactly what they need to do in the return, but this doesn't bother me. Forest are experienced enough to adapt to most situations, and of course we will be out to get as many goals as we can on our own ground.

But we certainly won't be underestimating Stoke or Watford. Indeed, because they are both in different Divisions to Nottingham Forest they could present more problems for us than teams in the First Division whose style is familiar to us.

As current Champions and League Cup holders Forest will obviously be tipped as favourites to beat either side, but I refuse to accept that our reputation will necessarily count for a great deal on the night.

Anything is possible in Cup football, which, as every soccer fan knows is a great leveller. And trying to work out what the scoreline will be isn't a logical thing to do. But I do think Forest against Stoke or Watford, in the Semi-Final will be an occasion.

Naturally I am hoping we will manage to win at home by a margin that will stand us in good stead for the return. But because there are two bites of the cherry for both teams, our opponents will also be keen to score in the first-leg at the City Ground — which means there could be some very interesting football against Stoke or Watford.

'EVEN THE BEST CAN BE BEATEN'

**HOWARD KENDALL
(Stoke)**

VISUALISING a trip to Nottingham Forest's ground to meet them in the League Cup Semi-Final, I would anticipate a

very tough game for Stoke.

The First Division title-holders got where they are today by consistency every week against opposing teams determined to halt their winning streak. So having made my point Forest are difficult opponents, let me add we won't go to the City Ground prepared to let them do all the attacking.

Stoke use a 4-4-2 formation, but it doesn't prevent us throwing men forward when necessary.

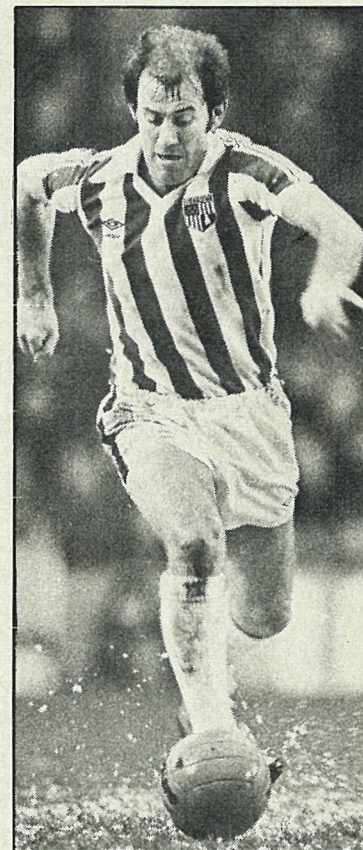
But the actual tactics we will use will be decided on the day of the match, when the role of particular players in our side will be discussed.

And we realise, too, that having broken through their defence, there would still be that man Peter Shilton to beat.

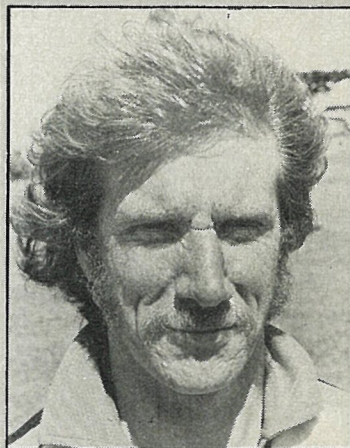
Obviously, Peter is a class goalkeeper but we would work on the principle even the best of them can let in a goal or two — which is what we would want at Nottingham if possible.

Certainly, Stoke have to be prepared to put on a tremendous show at the City Ground, in preparation for the second game, at the Victoria Ground.

To sum up, I think we are in with a chance against Nottingham Forest — and we can't ask for more than that.



or WATFORD



'WE'LL HOLD CHAMPIONS AT CITY GROUND'

SAM ELLIS (Watford)

TRYING to imagine what it would be like to meet Nottingham Forest in the League Cup Semi-Finals is not too difficult. I would be hoping we could provide the upset of the season by knocking out the Champions.

After all, Watford did go to Old Trafford and came out on top against Manchester United, so I don't think we will be over-awed in facing Forest on their own

pitch. The important thing for us to remember will be as the Semi-Final is played on a home-and-away basis, we will simply have to do well in both games.

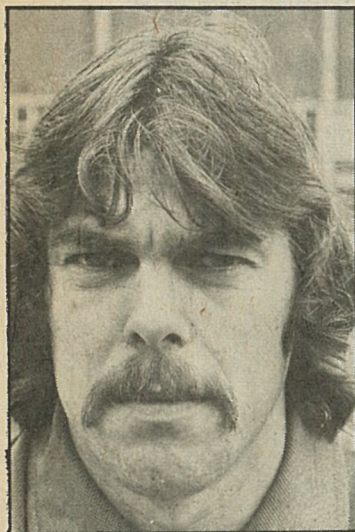
We have a reputation for goal-scoring, and would have to go for goals on the City Ground as well as on our own.

From all reports, Peter Shilton is enjoying a great season for Forest, but we would like nothing better than the chance of taking him on and putting him to the test.

Of course, Forest are not a team forced to rely on their goalkeeper, good as he is — they had a tremendous unbeaten run which was achieved in the First Division against top opposition.

So all in all, there is no way any side could underestimate Nottingham Forest. But I do feel in a match against them at Nottingham, we would fight all the way — and give our fans the chance to see a sizzler at Vicarage Road in the return.

SEMI-FINALS First-leg ties



DAVID HARVEY

HARVEY: Hello, Chris. It's logical enough to think we can beat Southampton at Elland Road, especially as we knocked in four goals against you when the two teams met there earlier this season — though I do remember that Saints fought hard enough on that occasion.

NICHOLL: True, David. I didn't think there were four goals difference between us at Leeds, because we handed you a couple of goals on a plate! But as you say, Southampton never stopped trying, and I believe you'll find us equally determined this time.

HARVEY: As we know, it's not the last game that matters, but the next one. Up to mid-December, we were in a good streak during which we lost only one game out of 11, so we'll try to maintain that form for the Semi-Finals.

NICHOLL: Well, we've also improved since the opening part of the season, and a lot depends on how Alan Ball plays. Alan is tremendously important to us, and when he is in the right mood, the whole team benefits from it. There is nobody like him for setting up goals, and he has a big influence on the younger players.

HARVEY: We won't underestimate the ability of Alan Ball, which is respected so much throughout the game — but we'll be trying to give you some problems to solve.

NICHOLL: Yes, and I know that Tony Currie could be one of them. He is similar to Alan Ball in being able to sway the course of a game, and as a defender, I'll have to keep an eye on the sort of moves that Tony can spark off.

HARVEY: As this is a two-leg affair, it's up to us to get as many

LEEDS UNITED v SOUTHAMPTON

Crosstalk between Leeds 'keeper David Harvey and Saints defender Chris Nicholl

goals in the bag as we can before we go to The Dell. The League Cup is a prestigious competition, and one of the important things about it is that it has the advantage of being a passport into Europe.

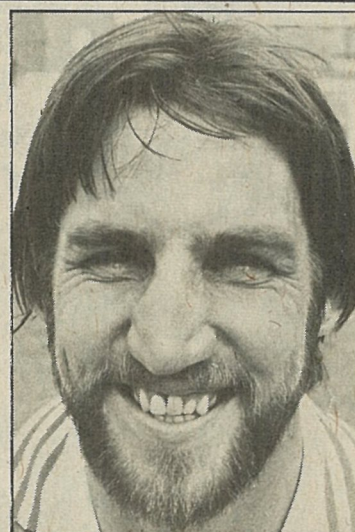
NICHOLL: This Semi-Final is certainly a big occasion, and the sort of event that Leeds are more accustomed to than Southampton. I hope that our younger players are not affected by the atmosphere, though we have enough experience in the side to carry us through.

HARVEY: Judging by our last meeting, I expect you to come at us to a certain extent, while also trying to keep things tight at the back. Tactics will play a part, of course, and both managers are well qualified at preparing for all eventualities.

NICHOLL: Lawrie McMenemy always advises us to be positive in whatever we do, and we'll all be out to get the right result at Leeds — then at The Dell we'll have the kind of confidence that makes us feel we don't need to fear anybody.

HARVEY: I can say that we are a more settled side now that we know we have a manager on a permanent basis. Since Jimmy Adamson came, we have a sense of purpose, of knowing what we are aiming at. And reaching the League Cup Final is one of our targets.

NICHOLL: Having played in the League Cup Final with Aston Villa, my ambition is to repeat the performance — though I can't say I'm expecting an easy passage in the Semi-Final. It is sure to be a tough



CHRIS NICHOLL

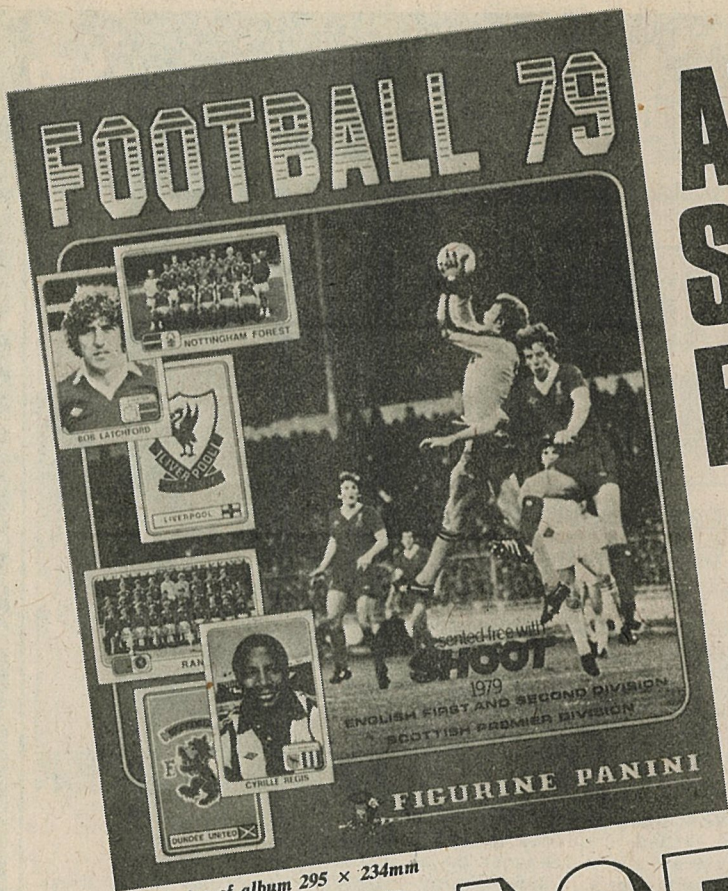
match.

HARVEY: Don't ask me to make any score-line predictions, Chris. That is asking for trouble. As long as the result favours us at Elland Road, I'll be happy when we travel to The Dell for the second encounter.

NICHOLL: What I'm hoping for, David, is a low-scoring game at Elland Road, and a high-scoring one at Southampton — with most of the goals going to us.



Leeds United beat Luton Town 4-1 in the Fifth Round of the League Cup. Frank Gray sidefoots a penalty past Jake Findlay for Leeds' fourth goal.



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LEAGUE CUP SHOCKS...

HOW the mighty have fallen in this season's League Cup. First Division sides Liverpool, Arsenal, Ipswich, Coventry, Wolves, Tottenham, Manchester United and Aston Villa have all crashed out of the competition to teams from lower Divisions . . .



TOP OF PAGE . . . Tottenham's Ricardo Villa pursued by David Bruton and John Toshack (right). Player-manager Toshack scored one of Swansea's goals in their shock 3-1 Second Round win.

ABOVE . . . Rotherham's John Green (extreme right) sends a blinding header past Pat Jennings in the Third Division club's 3-1 Second Round defeat of Arsenal.

ABOVE RIGHT . . . Luton's Lil Fuccillo, now recovering from a broken leg, shadowed by Villa's Gary Shelton. Second Division Luton won the Fourth Round tie 2-0.

RIGHT . . . Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish turns inside John Matthews, of Sheffield United. But United had the last laugh, winning their Second Round game 1-0 at Bramall Lane.





pre-season training. I desperately wanted to reach peak condition again."

And for David, one of the reasons for his wish for a return to soccer action stemmed from a conviction that 1978-79 would bring the chance of another European Cup Final win for Liverpool.

He says: "Last season I was in the League side, had a taste of European Cup football, and was getting a goal or two — then I was injured and bang went my chance of a Cup medal. So in August, I set my sights on achieving a return to my form of a few months earlier, and the thought that Liverpool would once more do well in Europe.

"And the disappointment when we were dismissed early on from the European Cup this term was as bad or worse than when I missed out on a European Cup winner's medal last season. Then, I had consoled myself by thinking that other players, including Tommy Smith and Phil Thompson, knew what it was like to be injured and forced to stand down for the match of the season.

"At the moment, we are heading the League table and our present priority is to get into Europe again. But although our position as League leaders guarantees Liverpool being tipped as Champions, it is too early to be counting our chickens. Everton, West Brom and Forest are right on our heels, and we can expect them to be pushing

'GETTING BACK INTO EUROPE — LIVERPOOL'S PRIORITY'

THE determination shown by Liverpool's David Johnson in his fight to regain top fitness following an operation on damaged ligaments late last season is finally paying dividends. And nobody is more relieved than the Merseyside-born striker.

David, who was with Everton before joining Ipswich in 1972, moved to Liverpool for a fee of around £100,000 over two years ago. Then, like Ray Kennedy and Terry McDermott, he completed his 'apprenticeship' at Anfield and was carving out a first team place for himself when he received a set-back.

"It happened in a match against Leicester," recalls Johnson. "Steve Sims now of course with Watford, made a tackle on me, a perfectly fair one, and my knee was injured — next there was an operation in April and the beginning of a very worrying period.

"After the operation and before the start of this season, I had to work hard at recovering from something that had never happened to me before — it was difficult to gauge just how much the leg was progressing, as there was no previous yardstick for me to go on. But I kept persevering and as the summer wore on the improvement had the same effect on me as seeing light at the end of a tunnel.

"I did a lot of exercising in the area around my home, and later I went to Anfield, two weeks before the other players reported for their

declares DAVE JOHNSON

us hard for the next few months."

Johnson, whose return to the Liverpool side after overcoming his knee injury helped to keep the Anfield club ahead of its rivals in October, struck up a partnership with Kenny Dalglish that brought the pair six goals in three games, before the 1-0 defeat against Everton that ended their domination of Merseyside.

And David says: "Kenny and I quickly developed an understanding without having to work at it. Each one seems to know what the other is thinking, and moves into the open space at the right time — I hope we can keep on doing it.

"As regards my own style, this is something which has basically remained the same from my early days. And when I joined Liverpool, I wasn't asked to change anything in my game, or play in a different manner to the one I had adopted at Ipswich.

"However, a player learns all the time, and if Liverpool are satisfied with what I have to offer, I'm content. All I want is to be a useful member of the first team at Anfield, doing whatever the club expects me to do."



*'Peter Shilton
and I are
great friends
— and rivals'*

SATURDAY, December 9th, 1978, has gone down as a red letter day for the Liverpool team and our fans — because that was the day we at last beat Nottingham Forest, the club that has done fantastically since winning promotion the season before last.

Last term they robbed us of both the Championship and the League Cup, and this season crushed our hopes of retaining the European Cup for the third time, and so join the elite clubs, such as Bayern Munich, Ajax and Real Madrid, who have held it for three successive seasons.

In the eyes of our fans, games with Forest now rank with those against our deadly Merseyside rivals, Everton. In former years, Leeds United, under Don Revie, were the team whose mantle Forest have taken over.

Our failure to beat Brian Clough's men had led our fans to the belief they had some sort of Indian sign over us — and it's a great feeling to be rid of that impression.

In the six games in which we had met previously since their return to the First Division, in League, League Cup and European Cup, Forest had come off best, although not necessarily by winning.

I'm told the last time we had beaten them was early in the Seventies, before they were demoted and consigned to the Second Division for a period.

Now they hold a record of having gone 42 games without defeat, something that may never be equal-

**RAY
CLEMENCE**
talking soccer

led, let alone surpassed.

I have nothing but praise for the Forest lads. They thoroughly deserve the honour.

For us it was doubly sweet to bring their run to an end. Firstly because over the last two seasons they have become our most dangerous rivals, and secondly because we'd done something Everton had failed in.

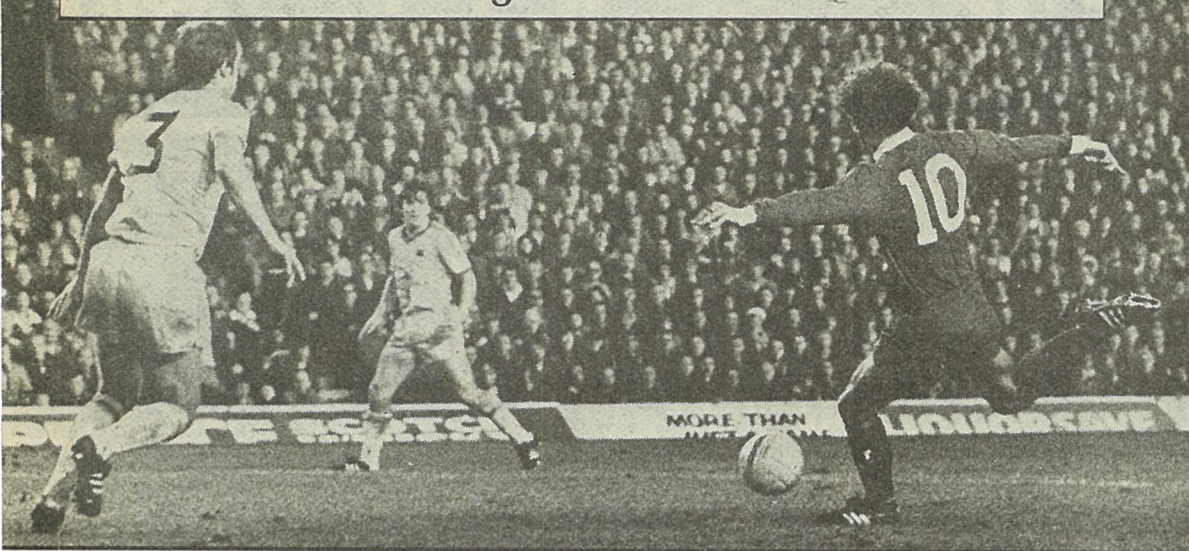
For after the Blues of Goodison Park had beaten us 1-0 in our derby game there this season, their fans had boasted of knocking out Forest in their League Cup Fourth Round tie at the same venue.

So we didn't shed any tears when Everton had the tables turned on them, and were convincingly beaten 3-2 by the holders of the trophy.

When the final whistle blew at our game, I didn't detect any signs of dejection amongst the Forest players. In fact, I suspected their overwhelming feeling was one of relief that the pressure of sustaining such an incredible sequence of results had been lifted from their shoulders.

I was looking forward to discussing the game with them afterwards

'We ended Forest's magnificent 42-match unbeaten run'



Above: Terry McDermott shapes to score Liverpool's second goal.

'A RED LETTER DAY AT ANFIELD'

in the players' lounge, but they didn't appear. Maybe Brian Clough had forbidden them to do so, as he had done after the European Cup First Round tie, but it remains a mystery. Larry Lloyd, a former Liverpool player, would have liked to come in and have a chat with ex-clubmates and their wives.

But Brian Clough is notoriously unconventional. And with his superb record of achievements, who is to say that anything he does is wrong?

Depleted

As for the game itself, I was disappointed in Forest's performance. I wouldn't put it down to being depleted of star regulars, as they have fielded teams with reserves in the past with no ill effects.

For instance, in their League Cup Final win last season.

Right from the kick-off it became clear they were more interested in not being beaten than in winning. Maybe this was due to pressure of being expected to sustain their run.

In previous games, when they have gone a goal down, Forest had

gone at their opponents' throats like hungry tigers to get back on terms, but after Terry McDermott put us ahead from a well-deserved penalty, they continued to sit back and defend. On losing a second goal, they still refused to bring the game to us, even allowing our back-four to stroke the ball around between them without being seriously challenged.

The shot-count tells the story: 30 for us, and one for them, and that in the 71st minute!

The much-heralded contest between my England rival, Peter Shilton, and I consequently didn't materialise.

The Press and TV have built up the controversy as to who deserves the place in the England goal, and Peter and I, who are great friends, take it all in good part.

My case could be damaged by the fact that Liverpool are out of Europe and the League Cup, Forest will come in for more exposure, both in the Press and on TV, and if Peter keeps up his cracking form, he'll be winning over more support.

But luckily England manager Ron Greenwood is not the sort of man to be swayed by other opinions, and



Ray Kennedy on the ball during Liverpool's 3-0 win.

we're both confident that whichever of us he selects for the next England game, it will be purely on merit.

I find it strange that often on away grounds, the home fans try to bait me with chants of "Shilton for England" in order to upset me, instead of singing the praises of their own 'keeper.

One question I'm often asked is how do I rate Forest's chances of becoming the next holders of the European Cup, removing it from the Anfield trophy room to the one at City Ground.

So far they have done everything right: getting a couple of good goals against us in the first-leg of the First Round on their ground, and defending tenaciously at Anfield and earning the draw they wanted.

Then, in the next round, against AEK Athens, they won away and followed up with a resounding 5-1 win at home.

I think they stand an excellent chance of becoming the next European Champions. Not one of the other remaining sides is to be

greatly feared.

West German Champions, Cologne, are having a poor domestic season, and now lie ninth in the 18-strong Bundesliga.

The East German representatives, Dynamo Dresden, can be formidable at home, especially if drawn there in the first-leg. They proved difficult enough against us last season when we went to Dresden for the second-leg with an encouraging 5-1 win in the first-leg.

The East Germans pinned us down so much in the first 45 minutes, we were confined to our half.

If Forest are drawn against Glasgow Rangers, it will be an England v Scotland battle and bear no relation to a typical, tactic-ridden European clash. The teams will just go at each other hard for 90 minutes of all-out attack!

Man-for-man Forest are the superior team in my opinion, and would triumph if fate should decree the teams meet.

Right now my mind is on Liverpool's League match this Saturday, against Birmingham City at Anfield.

'We beat Birmingham at St. Andrews in September'

It will be a different team from the one we beat rather easily by 3-0 at St. Andrews earlier this season.

Incidentally, I had the honour of captaining Liverpool that day for the first time, owing to the absence through injury of our then-captain Emlyn Hughes.

The Birmingham Blues should have their most outstanding player, Trevor Francis, back after injury and match fit, also Keith Bertschin, and new signings Alan Buckley, who rattled the goals in for Walsall, and Alberto Tarantini, a star Argentinian.

Although Birmingham should present a strong attack, their defence could still have problems. Tarantini, for instance, who has such a preference for going forward, at times neglects his defensive duties.

I've never looked forward to playing Birmingham at St. Andrews, mainly because, apart from this season, we've fared poorly there. In contrast, our games at Anfield have always been great to play in, and to watch, with plenty of exciting goal-mouth incidents.

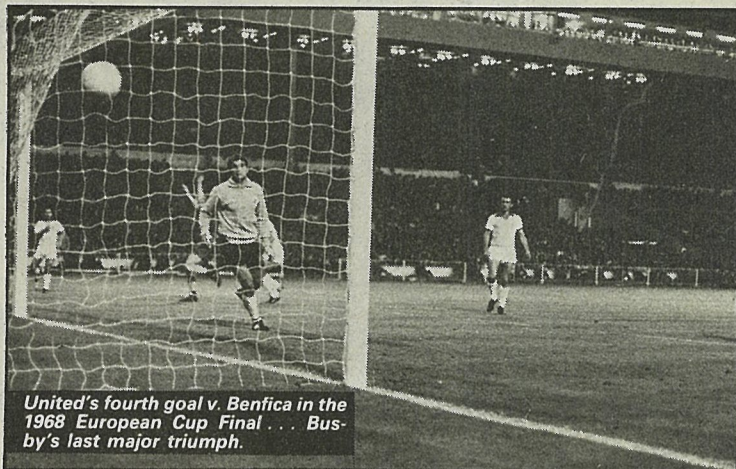
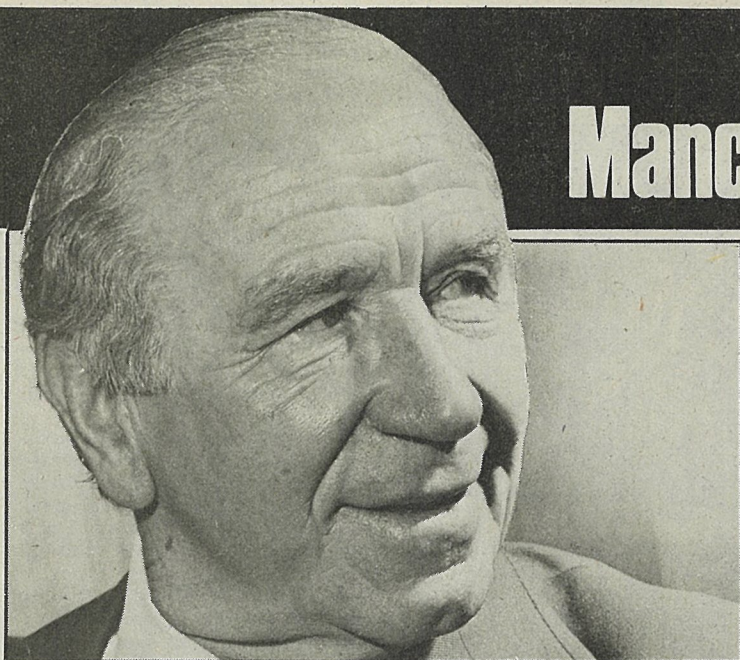
Here's hoping this one lives up to expectations, and with both points coming our way — unlike a couple of seasons ago when they got both with a 3-2 win.

The pressure is on Liverpool now in the Championship race and on Birmingham in the bid to beat the drop!

See you next week —

Ray Clemence

Ten years after Sir Manchester United are *STILL*



United's fourth goal v. Benfica in the 1968 European Cup Final... Busby's last major triumph.

IT'S ten years since Sir Matt Busby stepped down from the front-line of soccer action... a decade of wondering and worrying for the grand old man of English football.

Although the name of Manchester United is still one of the most respected in the game and their team are still consistently the top crowd-pullers all over the country, the success they enjoyed under Busby still eludes them.

In the last ten years they have been twice to the Final of the F.A.

Cup, winning at Wembley in 1977 under Tommy Docherty.

No one will deny The Reds that moment of glory, but even The Doc conceded that luck plays a big part in Cup fortune.

The harsh reality is the fact that Manchester United have not really had a team that has looked capable of winning the League Championship since the legendary reign of Sir Matt and his assistant Jimmy Murphy.

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kept United in the forefront for 23 years. They created not one, but three great teams, survived Munich and brought Old Trafford to a pinnacle of success in 1968 when they became the first English club to win the European Cup.

It was soon after that triumph that Sir Matt decided it was time to move over and let a younger man take over the helm. He had become conscious of the fact the

demands of the club he had taken from rags to riches were such he was becoming remote from the players.

First he took up a general managerial role and eventually he became a director... but so far he has not seen anyone following in his famous footsteps who has been able to give Old Trafford the success the support, money and image demands.

In fact, the last ten years have

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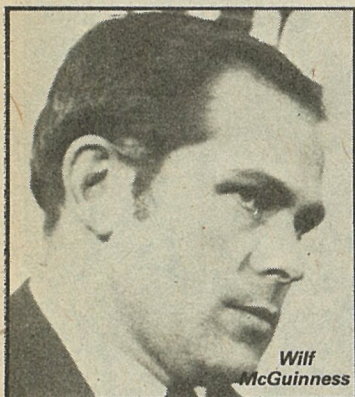
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Matt Busby stepped down as manager... searching for the glory that made them great

really been nothing but a sad and sorry succession of disappointments and problems that have threatened to destroy the very fabric of Manchester United. It's largely been a story of sacked managers, distressing court cases, a domestic club scandal and controversial power politics at the top.

The fans still make Manchester United the best supported club in the country and they have had moments when the old Red Devils gave a twitch of their former selves.

They roared back in style from the Second Division and two trips to Wembley in successive seasons did a lot to restore faith in the future, but overall Sir Matt must still be wondering when it is all going to come good again.



Wilf McGuinness

He was bitterly upset when his plan to hand over the reins to young Wilf McGuinness and keep the management within the Old Trafford family failed to work out.

Wilf was sacked after 18 months and though Frank O'Farrell brought a great deal more experience as his successor, he only lasted a year and a half as well.

It looked for some time as if Tommy Docherty was going to justify the tough line policy of the board by giving them the success they by now so desperately needed and in many ways he did.

The Doc spent heavily and then went on to stabilise the club's

finances, and though he took them down into the Second Division he brought them back straightaway with a swashbuckling style that both was exciting and entertaining.

But even at the height of the F.A. Cup triumph there was an unease in the background about some aspects of the manner of The Doc's management.

For people like Sir Matt, Docherty was upsetting too many people and making enemies of too many players. There were rumours coming back to the club of their manager's involvement with the kind of deals that did little to enhance their dignity.

Their fears seemed founded when The Doc tarnished the glory and glitter of the Cup by running



Frank O'Farrell

off with the wife of the club's physiotherapist.

They sacked him to bring a man of quite different temperament to Old Trafford in Dave Sexton, a manager who dislikes personal publicity and who in direct contrast to his predecessor remains a rather shadowy figure as far as most supporters are concerned.

Not all the fans like the way his teams have played over the last 12 months and dissention continues to do little to ease the worries and frustrations of the supporters.

Tommy Docherty's libel case against former United winger Willie Morgan and Granada Television

ended as a personal disaster for The Doc, and it did little for the reputation of Manchester United.

This is the kind of background that has cast something of a shadow over the management of Dave Sexton, and undoubtedly made his task more difficult.

So Sir Matt still waits and wonders whether United's fourth manager in the decade since he first relinquished his team responsibilities is going to bring the golden days back again.

Just recently he must have wondered whether he was going to remain on the board of directors to see it happen, for once again Manchester United have been through the throes of public controversy.

This time it was the chairman's much debated plan to raise £1 million new share capital for Manchester United, a scheme originally opposed by Sir Matt.

Louis Edwards and his family own around three quarters of the club's shares and pushed through a rights issue at the ratio of 208 new shares to one of the old at a par-price of £1.

A million new shares have been issued and the Edwards family have taken up their rights — at a cost, of course, of £750,000.

Martin Edwards, the elder son and major shareholder, has made it quite clear he intends to sell a percentage of his new shares in order to recoup his outlay.



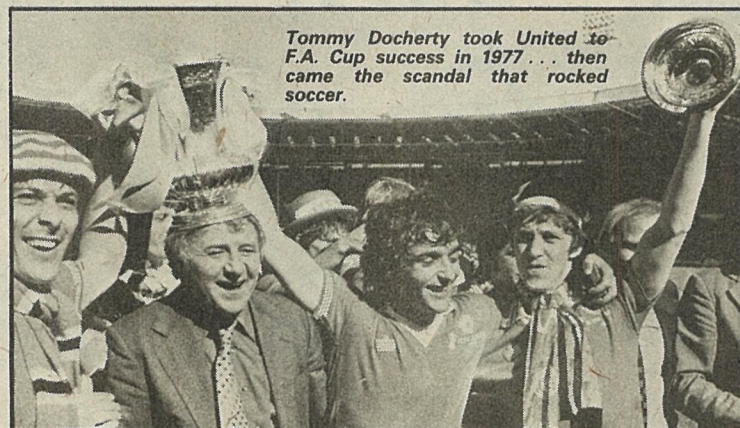
Martin Buchan with the Second Division trophy.

At least Manchester United are united again in the boardroom which is perhaps just as well as Dave Sexton strives for the consistency that still eludes him.

After signing Mike Thomas from Wrexham for £300,000, it looked as if the manager had found a successful balance and blend.

Indeed, he went on record as saying he feels happier about his team than at any other point since his arrival at Old Trafford.

But a cheerless Christmas saw



Tommy Docherty took United to F.A. Cup success in 1977... then came the scandal that rocked soccer.

He says he has no intention of selling the remainder. What worries a lot of people, however, is if one day the family have a change of heart they could make a huge personal profit.

There was a bid in the High Court to try and stop the scheme, but it failed, and soon the club will have their million pounds to spend on new players while the Edwards family sit on a fortune with their shares possibly worth five times the price they paid for them.

At the end of the day Sir Matt, while not exactly giving his blessing to the rights issue, at least withdrew his opposition.

He explained in order to maintain harmony he would go along with the plan and time might prove the fears of the opponents of the idea are unfounded.

his men crash 3-0 at Bolton and then lose 3-0 at home to Liverpool.

Liverpool made it painfully clear at Old Trafford on Boxing Day that Manchester United fall a long way short of the desired standard.

Sir Matt Busby must have winced at the gap between the two teams in a game that looked like the men versus the boys.

Manchester United did not win every match in the Busby era, but they usually managed to look worthy opponents for anyone, even against the best in Europe.

Ten years and four managers later they are still searching for the mastery and magic that was once the hallmark of their football.

How much longer must the Old Trafford maestro wait to see the greatness and glory restored to Old Trafford?



Dave Sexton dislikes personal publicity.

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FORMER Nottingham Forest striker Peter Withe now has his sights set on promotion.

While his old team-mates battle to regain their Championship title, Withe, who signed for Second Division Newcastle in September has firmly settled into the side.

Withe admits there is a lot of pressure on his shoulders. But he is confident, like every good goal-scorer, that he can repay some of the £200,000 transfer fee.

Since moving to Newcastle it's only natural Withe should be compared with Malcolm Macdonald by the Newcastle supporters.

But as the big forward explains: "Supermac and I are different play-

mean we will simply walk into a promotion slot. We have no divine right to go up.

"We will have to work really hard. But that's what we are prepared to do. Our start to the season wasn't outstanding but over the past couple of months the side has improved no end and climbed the table almost unnoticed.

"In the end only promotion will be enough for both ourselves and the Newcastle supporters."

He may be "out in the cold" off the field in the wintry North-East, but Peter Withe is certainly making things hot for rivals on the park and has been warmly welcomed by the St. James' Park fans.

'Out in the cold' Withe gets a warm welcome at Newcastle

ers and over the years the Newcastle team has changed.

"Now this side is ready to go all out for promotion... as recent results have proved. It's a situation that people in the city, and the North-East, are not used to, but the fans are right behind us."

Withe has only one, small complaint: "When I went to Newcastle to meet all the lads for the first time, the minute I crossed the Tyne Bridge the sun began to shine. But it's been cold ever since. I certainly have to wear a couple of extra jumpers to keep the wind out!"

Withe admits it is always difficult joining a new club and striking form straight away.

"The lads have been great and very helpful and it's good to be part of such a good set up. That's why things have been going so well," he says.

He has already become a popular figure with the Newcastle public. They see him as the man to fire United back into the top flight at the first time of asking.

Withe says: "I came to St. James' Park because it was a challenge and it was something new. Of course it was sad to leave so many friends behind in Nottingham, because I had so many happy times at the City Ground.

"But you can't stay in one place for ever and I felt it was time to move on. I wish Forest every success and I hope they keep on winning — unless they face Newcastle!"

Withe snatched 19 goals last season as Forest raced to a Championship and League Cup double, and he formed an important scoring partnership with England international striker Tony Woodcock.

"Tony and I had a perfect understanding and I really enjoyed playing alongside him. I am now forming the same kind of thing with the Newcastle forwards. We have some very good players and they should score quite a few goals.

"There are some experienced teams in the Second Division this season and just because we are 'Newcastle United' it does not



Hammerings helped ALAN DEVONSHIRE become an Upton Park star

ALAN DEVONSHIRE'S success story at West Ham reads like a soccer fairy tale.

He was discarded by Crystal Palace as a youngster, and drifted into the Isthmian League with Southall.

Queens Park Rangers nearly signed him — but decided he wasn't strong enough — and the field was left clear for West Ham to take him for a bargain £5,000 in September, 1976.

Within four weeks he made his first team debut — and with such an impact that he's missed only a handful of matches since.

Now he's one of the stars of Hammers' promotion drive, wouldn't be for sale at any price, and almost certainly short-listed for England honours.

Devonshire, 22, is almost waif-like in appearance. He is five feet 10½ inches, weighs less than 11 stone — and freely admits he has skinny legs.

Yet he has all the natural talents of the perfect midfielder. He carries the ball on long exciting runs, and beats people with an almost uncanny ease. Added to that is astonishing strength on the ball, power in the tackle, and perfect temperament.

England star Trevor Brooking, Devonshire's colleague in West Ham's midfield, says: "Probably his biggest asset is his ability to beat people — he seems to almost drift past them. He has good acceleration, and somehow he seems to just ghost through tackles.

"But he's also got good defensive qualities, he tackles back and works hard — the ideal sort of player to have in midfield."

Devonshire himself is more modest about his achievements.

"I still find it hard to believe how quickly everything happened," he says.

"The first indication I had was

when Reading made Southall an offer for me. I was advised to turn it down because a bigger club was in the wings.

"Then, one Tuesday night, we played Slough, and I was told West Ham's chief scout, Eddie Bailey, wanted to see me.

"I went into the room, he introduced himself, and then asked: 'Do you want to sign for us on Thursday?'

"It took me about three seconds to make up my mind."

Amazing Pace

There were more surprises to come as Devonshire was plunged straight into West Ham's relegation fight.

His first day's full training left him physically sick — the combined effect of hard work and an undiagnosed virus infection — and his first senior match, a League Cup-tie at Queens Park Rangers, left him astonished at the pace.

The fact he didn't struggle for long owed much to his earlier disappointments.

"I want to prove the people who have knocked me were wrong. When I was at Crystal Palace as an amateur Bert Head, then manager at Selhurst Park, promised me professional terms — but then Malcolm Allison took over and almost immediately I had to go.

"For a year and a half in the Isthmian League I was kicked to pieces — and that taught me to take knocks, and control my temper.

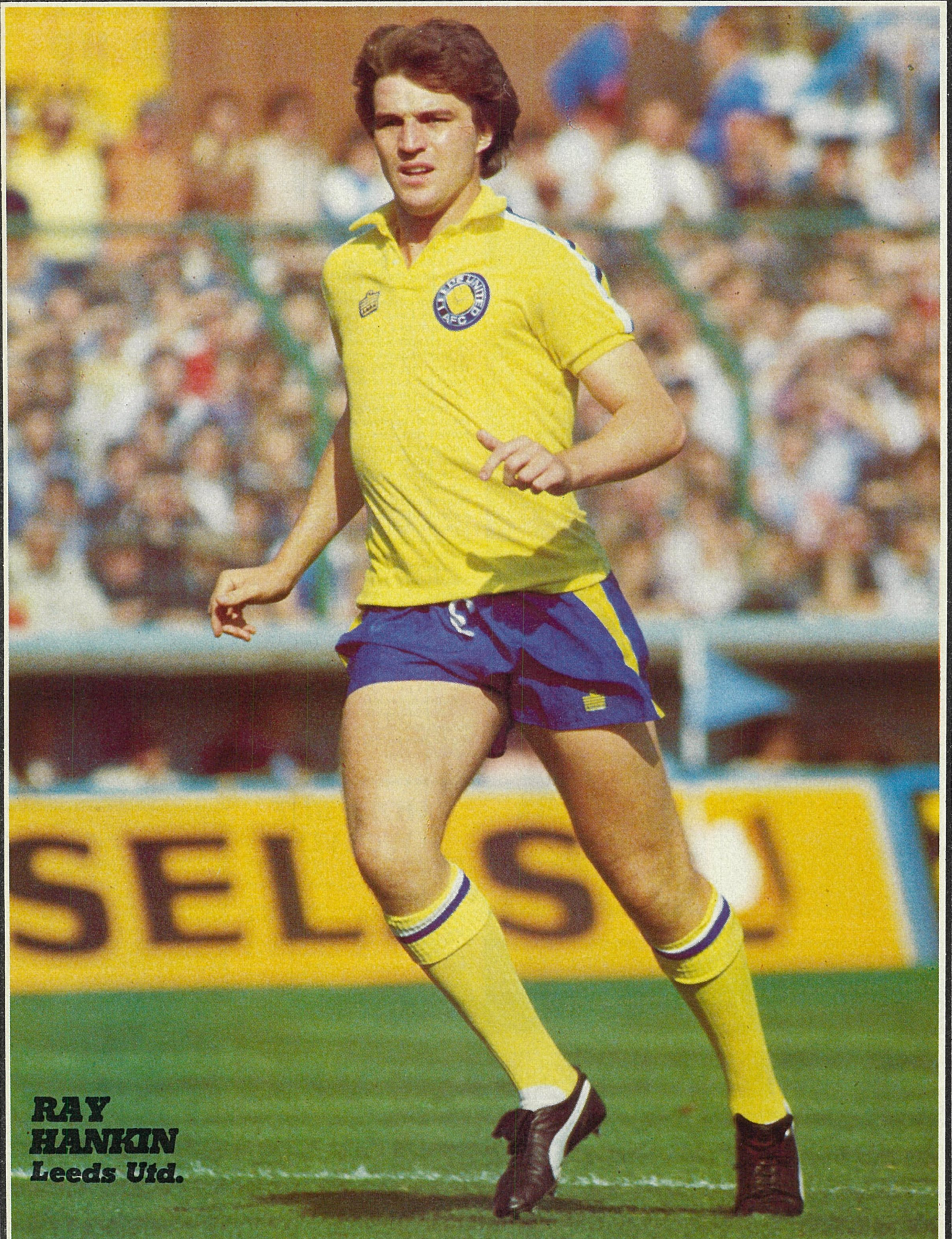
"There's no point in retaliating when you are fouled, you only get sent-off or booked, which can lead up to long spells out of the game through suspension.

"West Ham have shown faith in me, and all I want to do now is pay them back by helping take the club back to the First Division."

TONY BROWN
West Brom.



SHOOT!



**RAY
HANKIN**
Leeds Utd.

SHOOT!

BY the end of this season, Grimsby, Portsmouth and Northampton will have met all the other 91 clubs in the Football League.

But Barnsley will have played all but Oxford, Bradford City all but Ipswich and Huddersfield all but Mansfield.

Bohemians lead in Eire

AT the halfway stage in the Bass League of Ireland, the leaders were Bohemians, the reigning Champions.

For the record, The Gypsies were also on top at the same stage last season when they had one more point (23) to show for the 15 games played.

The overall goals tally is also slightly down on last season and the £1,000 reward for the first player to score 26 looks out of reach.

Turlough O'Connor (Bohemians), Johnny Matthews (Waterford) and Pat O'Connor (Home Farm) were top scorers with eight goals each.

Quick Hit

GARRY Thompson (below), the latest young star to make an impact in the Coventry City side, has impressed with his speed and general athletic ability.

This is hardly surprising because his asset is very much a family affair.

His sister, Blondelle Caines, is an international athlete, who is hoping to enhance her own international reputation this year in preparation for the Moscow Olympics.

Garry? He scored five goals in his first nine first team games and quickly struck up a good partnership with Ian Wallace.



IN the last five years Leeds United have transferred, (or lost through retirement) no fewer than 13 internationals! What a team this could have made — Gary Sprake, Paul Reaney, Terry Cooper, Billy Bremner, Gordon McQueen, Norman Hunter, Johnny Giles, Allan Clarke, Joe Jordan, Terry Yorath and Duncan McKenzie (non-international). In addition Jack Charlton and Mick Jones retired. The 13th international to leave Elland Road is goalkeeper David Stewart, of Scotland, who recently moved to West Brom.

JOE ON TARGET FOR BAIRNS

FALKIRK are shaping up as certainties for promotion back to the Scottish First Division. And if the Brockville side do win the Second Division Championship it will provide a unique hat-trick for Joe McCallan.

He scored 21 goals for Clydebank when they won the Second Division in 1975-76. The next season he was top scorer with 31 goals when the West of Scotland team won promotion to the Premier Division.

At the halfway mark this season Joe had scored nine goals for The Bairns.



COUNTY STEP UP THEIR SEARCH FOR NEW TALENT

NOTTS County manager Jimmy Sirrel (left) is already looking ahead to the future.

As The Magpies try to force their way out of the Second Division, Sirrel is making a bid to improve the standard of youngsters arriving at Meadow Lane.

The Notts County boss is stepping up their search for new talent.

Sirrel is quick to point out the reason why: "We are not a rich club. There are a lot of sides in the lower Divisions in our situation."

"Instead of going out to splash-out thousands of pounds on just one player, they have to wait for a youngster to develop through the 'A team' and reserve side."

"Sometimes, if you have a number of injured players, a young lad has to come in and do a man's job. We have a player like that at the moment in teenager Paul Hooks (right). But he's done really well and is scoring goals."

County are holding regular trial matches and, over the past few months, have been watching many school games in the area.

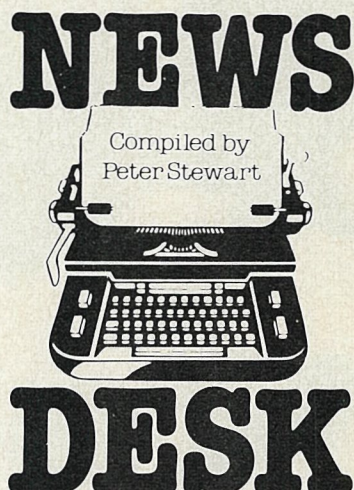
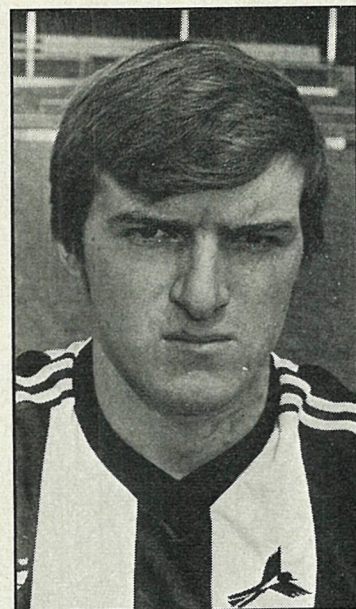
Although Sirrel admits that signing young players is always a tricky business, it is a side of his job he really enjoys.

"It is always nice to spot a teenager you think will make it and then begin to follow his progress."

Sirrel will not be drawn into predictions concerning his first team. But he does feel they are moving in the right direction.

"We didn't get off to a very good start, but now things are beginning to come together a bit more. We have quite a few new faces in our side and it always takes time for players to find their feet."

He adds: "It would be great for Nottingham to have two sides in the First Division. We will just take each match as it comes and hope for the best."



MORE BITE WOLVES

WOLVERHAMPTON's new manager John Barnwell reckons his players are "too nice". Now he is urging them to be more professional.

"Some people accept defeat too easily," he admits. "I like players with pace, skill, control and aggression."

"I think we have the players here who can do what I want. The name of the game this season is survival."

TOMMY Barron, the Shamrock Rovers and Eire youth international, has joined Stoke City.

ST. Mirren have to raise £300,000 to bring their ground up to the standard acceptable to the Safety of Sports Grounds Act.

They have spent £10,000 on their playing surface, £9,000 on Scotland's first computerised turnstile system, £42,000 on floodlights and £60,000 on improving the Caledonia end of the ground.

PLAYER-COOK

SHEFFIELD United haven't managed to set the Second Division alight this season — but there doesn't appear to be much wrong with their team spirit.

Versatile youngster Brian McGarry, equally at home at full-back, centre-half, or midfield, takes his versatility home to the kitchen where he is a very good cook. He even cooks for his United team-mate, midfielder Keith Larner.

McGarry's cooking is aiding 18-year-old Larner's fight for fitness after breaking a leg in November. He will be in plaster for some time yet.

The 19-year-old McGarry is playing well after making his League debut last March. Brian's ability isn't limited to football and cooking. He's also won medals for cross country running.

Up First Time

IS any manager in his first season about to celebrate in style by winning promotion at the first attempt?

Last season five achieved the feat... Arfon Griffiths (Wrexham), Nobby Stiles (Preston), John Docherty (Cambridge United), Graham Taylor (Watford) and John Toshack (Swansea).

Leading contenders this season would appear to be Malcolm Allison (right, Plymouth — you can't keep him down can you), Bobby Smith (Swindon), Allan Clarke (Barnsley) and Mike Summerbee (Stockport County).



IT took Thurles Town 16 months to get their first away win in the Bass League of Ireland.

On the day they conceded their 99th League goal, the Tipperary club beat Home Farm 2-1 at Tolka Park in what was their 22nd away game in the League.

HATELEY RETURNS

TONY Hateley, the much travelled former Villa, Chelsea and Liverpool striker, has made a comeback — with Keyworth United.

He made his debut for them in their Notts Alliance Senior Cup-tie against Clipstone Miners' Welfare just before Christmas. Clipstone won 3-2 in extra-time and Tony failed to score.

But watch out for Tony's son Mark, a striker like dad who has just signed pro forms with Coventry.

Norwich City's Midland Fans

NORWICH City have launched a branch of their supporters' club in the Midlands. Fans wishing to join should contact the secretary, Mr. S. I. Daniels, of 52 Lock Lane, Old Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts.

.....

DERBY County defender Peter Daniel, aged 31, has signed for NASL club Vancouver Whitecaps.

FACTastic

IT is a rarity for anyone to score a goal direct from a free-kick in modern football, but there was an occasion when it happened twice in one Division Two game on the Notts County ground in March, 1932. Harold Andrews scored with a corner-kick for County and Sam Hopkinson repeated the feat for visiting Manchester United.

FANCY sharing your home with an Aston Villa player? The club are looking for accommodation for players in the Birmingham area. Anyone interested in providing lodgings should telephone the club on 021-327 6604.

Another future Ipswich star?

IPSWICH have always spread their net far and wide to trap soccer talent, so it is no surprise to find one of their latest scoring stars of the future, Jean-Michel D'Ayay, comes from South Africa.

Manchester City star and former Ipswich player Colin Viljoen was told about Mich's prowess when he was on holiday in South Africa and, of course, passed the information on to the East Anglian club.

Colin also told Mich, and his dad, about the set-up at Ipswich. So the Johannesburg lad duly joined the Suffolk side and started to play in the youth team... and score goals.

The dark-haired, well-built player, who stands over 6ft, has been banging the ball in the net since scoring five against Ware Town in the Eastern Junior Cup and followed that with a hat-trick against Watford!

Said Ipswich Youth coach Charlie Woods, "He reminds me a bit of Ray Crawford the way he puts the ball away." Certainly if he continues this way the 17-year-old Mich could well be another home produced product to hit the headlines.

FORMER Scotland team boss Ally MacLeod is back in charge of a Scottish Premier Division club — Motherwell, struggling at the foot of the League.

And MacLeod's decision to leave Ayr United, the team he joined after quitting as Scotland's manager, means he is once again partnering former Hearts' boss, John Hagart.

It was Hagart, who as Motherwell coach, assisted MacLeod during Scotland's World Cup trip to Argentina.

Hagart has been caretaker-manager at Fir Park since Roger Hynd resigned.

Malone Joins Old Boss

DICK Malone has teamed-up again on a permanent basis with Bob Stokoe at Blackpool. They shared in Sunderland's memorable F.A. Cup Final triumph in 1973.

The full-back joined Blackpool on loan from Hartlepool after impressing Stokoe in Ian Porterfield's testimonial match.

Porterfield will have a place in the hearts of Sunderland fans forever — for his match winning Wembley goal against Leeds United.

TOMMY Mason, a left-back who made his League debut for Fulham as a 17-year-old, trained with Chelsea when he was only 12!

A West London and Inner London Schools player and winner of FA Youth honours, Fulham-born Tommy moved to Craven Cottage as a 15-year-old in February, 1976, and played in their South Eastern Counties team. He signed professional last January.

"My father has been my inspiration," says Tommy. "He has followed me everywhere."

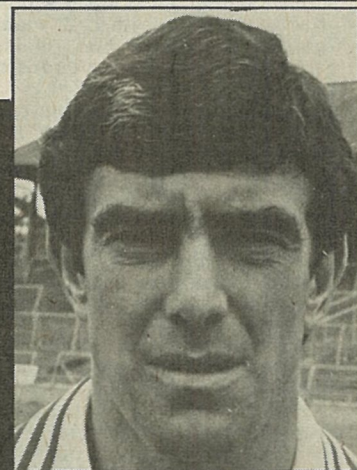
WINNER of the Texaco Soccer Award in Ireland for 1978 was Pat Jennings. The Arsenal and Northern Ireland 'keeper also won the award in 1973.

BRYAN JOINS ELITE!

SWINDON Town's recent £20,000 capture from Millwall, Bryan Hamilton (right) is one of only two post-War Northern Ireland aces to represent his country with no fewer than FIVE senior clubs.

Since his 1968-69 Irish debut, v. Turkey, versatile Bryan, then with Linfield, has also been capped with Ipswich, Everton, Millwall and, now, Swindon, equalling the colourful Derek Dougan's five-club international run with Portsmouth, Blackburn, Aston Villa, Leicester and Wolves.

The legendary Peter Doherty (Blackpool, Manchester City, Derby, Huddersfield and Doncaster) also gained Irish honours with five different clubs, but with Blackpool and Man. City BEFORE the last War. Incidentally, A. McCartney (Ulster, Linfield, Everton, Belfast Celtic and Glentoran) was the first-ever Irish five-team cap, in the early 1900's.



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SOCCER MONTHLY



WATFORD'S superstar Chairman Elton John seen here with the team as they sing their latest record "Georga", which is from Elton's latest LP.

The "entertainment" was all part of the club's Christmas and New Year party at the Beehive Hotel, Bushey, Herts., recently.

Among the guests at the dinner were TV personality Michael Parkinson and Scottish comedian Billy Connolly.

'AWAY DAY' SPURS

AS THE season goes on, it is beginning to look as if Tottenham's enterprising £750,000 gamble on a couple of World Cup Argentinians is paying handsome dividends.

And not only for Spurs themselves, but for their 21 First Division rivals.

For, while the silky skills of Osvaldo Ardiles are slowly-but-surely edging Spurs up the table after a stuttering start, it seems "getting a sight of him" is fast becoming a priority for opposing supporters.

How else does one account for the fact the "Away-Day Spurs" are this season taking over from the likes of Liverpool, Manchester United, and Forest as the number one League crowd-pullers wherever they visit.

Granted, they were then in the Second Division — but, last season, Spurs attracted an average away gate of 21,549.

This term, with just over a third of their away fixtures played, it had risen to 37,269.

Over the same period . . . European Cup-holders Liverpool averaged 35,112; League Champions Nottingham Forest 34,055; and ambitious, big-spending Everton 33,333.

Also, over that same period, it must be recorded that all three are still quite a bit better placed than



Ricardo Villa receives a home-from-home welcome from the Spurs fans on his debut at White Hart Lane against Aston Villa.



Players, like Peter Taylor (on the ball), have benefited from playing alongside Ardiles.

Spurs . . . so, all things considered, "Ossie" and Ricardo Villa must surely be the missing link.

At the very start of the season, obviously novelty-value played its part. Argentina had just won the World Cup — and millions of TV watchers had seen them in action.

But novelty-value, alone, soon wears off — and Senor Ardiles has since had to put in more than a mere token appearance on the pitch to draw the crowds.

The fact that he has — plus the fact that his countryman Ricardo Villa, when sidelined as sub, has continually been urged on to the pitch by spectators — more than vindicates manager Keith Burkinshaw's shrewd, if costly, move.

Crowd-puller

It seems as if "Ossie" Ardiles is moving into George Best's class as a crowd-puller.

On TV recently, one giggling teenage girl confessed to the interviewer: "He's such a cuddly little man — I'd go anywhere to see him play."

What, then, is the secret of the elusive 5ft 6ins Argentinian?

He dictates play with his superb, subtle, precise football. He is a thoughtful player, which is not surprising for he's been studying law at Cordoba University for four years . . . and is returning next close-season to take his final exams.

the First Division's top attraction

It was while there, incidentally, "Ossie" first played soccer in earnest, subsequently joining Huracan in 1975, and winning 45 international caps.

Another Ardiles asset is that, in a personal sense, he's settled-in well — with a good-natured sense of humour.

"Learning English fluently isn't easy, anyway — and some of my new team-mates come out with Cockney phrases which are quite beyond me so far," he admits.

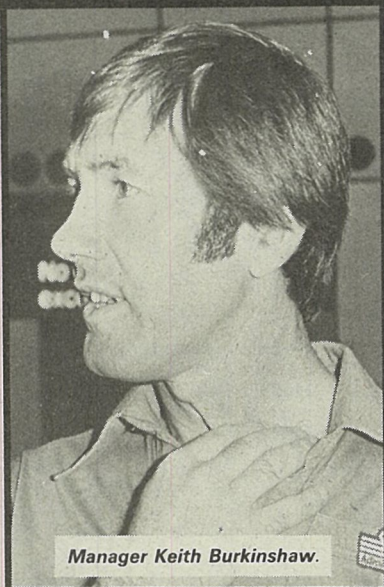
"Still, I'm told that 'Wotcher, cock' is friendly — so I'll have to stick to that until the interpreters have explained the rest!"

Says manager, Keith Burkinshaw: "I knew the Argentinian lads would find things a bit different, even difficult, at first — but the way 'Ossie' has adapted, and fitted-in, so quickly has really amazed me.

"If it proves anything, it's that a great player is, or soon can be, a great player in whatever part of the world he plays. However different the environment and conditions . . . genuine talent, like that of Ardiles, can never be stifled."

England manager Ron Greenwood welcomes imports, within reason.

So do many other people in the game, realising our own youngsters can benefit from the experience of playing alongside, or



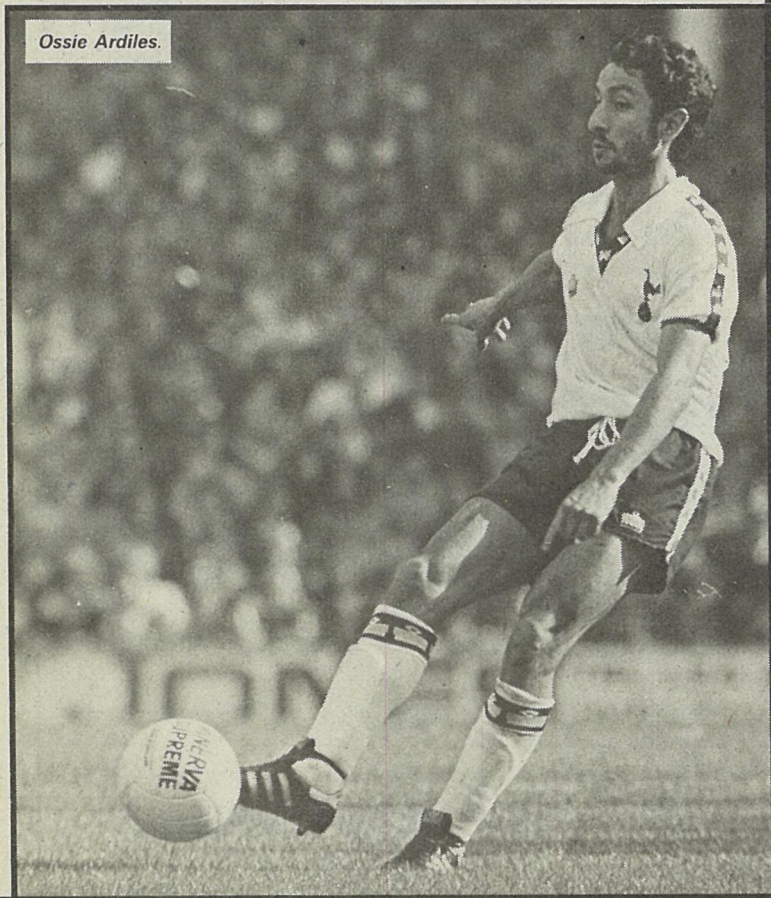
Manager Keith Burkinshaw.

against, the best of the rest as well as our own top men.

Ardiles proves their point. A boost to his club, an amiable companion to his team-mates, a hit with the fans — and a drawing-card to bring vital extra cash through the turnstiles.

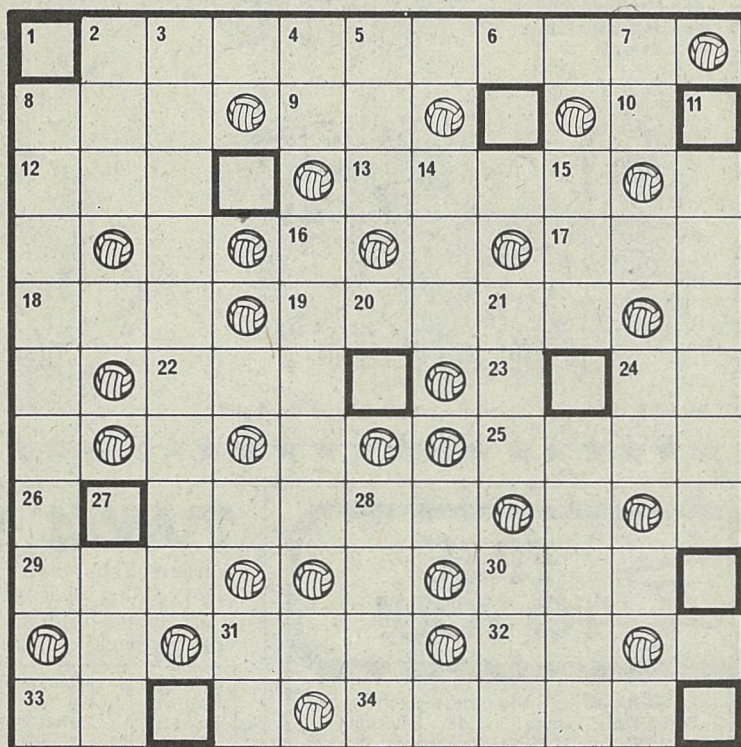
Tottenham's gamble was courageous. By its sheer surprise and boldness, it deserved to pay off.

Ossie Ardiles.



Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Everton midfielder. Answers on page 42.



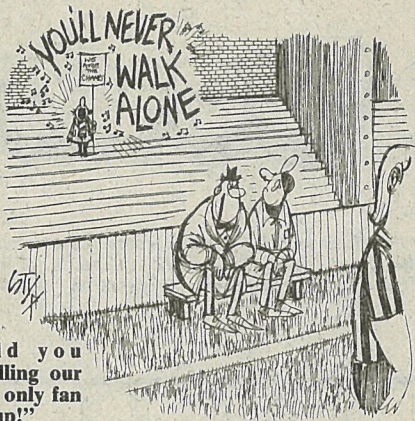
ACROSS:—

- (1) Birmingham City midfielder player. (4 & 6)
- (8) Reverential fear — at a big occasion perhaps.
- (9) Dennis R--e of Leicester City.
- (10) P--tadown; Irish League club.
- (12) Information — about soccer, for instance.
- (13) — Tunstall; former famous name with Sheffield United.
- (17) S-a-bru-ken. West German club needs a curve.
- (18) — Hartford, Manchester City midfielder.
- (19) Excellent . . . as in "— sub"!
- (22) Takes up a resting position.
- (23) — Gates of Ipswich Town.
- (25) Polish striker: Grzegorz —. (Top scorer in the 1974 World Cup).
- (26) Assemble or accumulate. Club programmes for example.
- (29) Cr--- Alexandra from Gresty Road.
- (30) Sheffield Wednesday have won the League title on — occasions.
- (31) Ian Gi---rd (Q.P.R.). The omissions in reverse.
- (32) H--chin; one of the very first F.A. Cup entrants in 1871/72.
- (33) Word used (in short) to denote an unknown player.
- (34) Brian —, Aston Villa striker.

DOWN:—

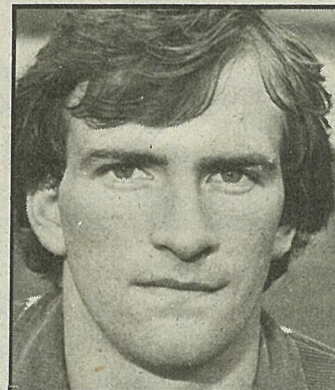
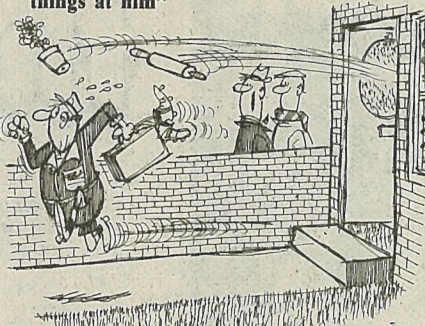
- (1) — Park, ground of Dundee United.
- (2) Kilb--i- Park, Clydebank F.C.
- (3) — United. Relegated from English Division One last season.
- (4) Colin --dd of Everton.
- (5) Brian Greenh--- from Manchester United.
- (6) Kevin Re---s of Norwich City.
- (7) --chaux; French League club.
- (11) — Ground of Wrexham.
- (14) Bastia striker in the 1977/78 U.E.F.A. Cup Final (v. PSV Eindhoven).
- (15) Terry —, Everton defender.
- (16) West Bromwich Albion striker who scored a record three hat-tricks in eight days in September, 1965.
- (20) Martyn B--by, midfielder from Q.P.R.
- (21) D--pda-e; Preston North End's home.
- (24) Coventry C--y from Highfield Road.
- (27) Gary —, Manchester City midfielder.
- (28) Shout to, or summon, another player, for instance.
- (30) In the peak of condition.
- (31) M-i-e Road; Manchester City's ground.

FOOTBALL FUNNIES

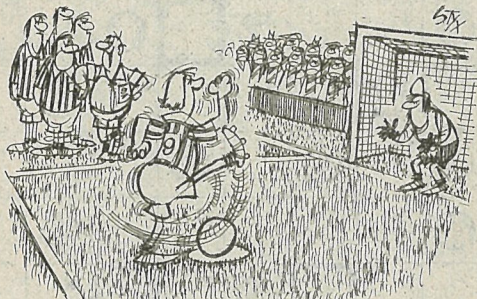


"Would you mind telling our one and only fan to belt up!"

"Poor chap. Even his wife throws things at him"



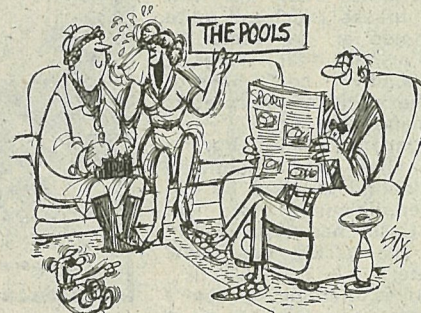
This week JOE HINNIGAN of Wigan selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Good, isn't he? Third time he's missed the ball"



"When I started my sentence — Huddersfield were in the First Division"



"He sent £50 for a guaranteed system to beat the pools — they sent him back this notice with instructions to lay it on a table and beat it with a stick"

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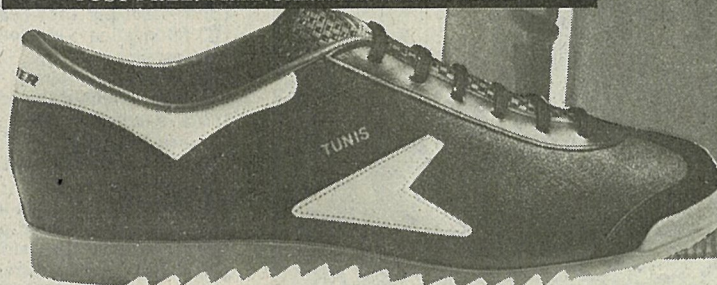
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A 'GOOD LIFE' North of the border for PETER BONETTI

THIS year Peter Bonetti, star of the Chelsea show for more years than he may care to remember, is going to sample the good life. Bonetti, 37, is moving away from the bright lights of London for the little Scottish island of Mull.

There was talk of the 37-year-old goalkeeper going to the States to sample the soccer boom, but instead he could find himself playing for a team North of the border!

Peter explains: "My wife Frances, spent a couple of holidays on the Isle of Mull with her sister and, knowing my love for the outdoor life, persuaded me to have a look at the place."

"We all went up there and immediately fell in love with the spot. It's so peaceful and beautiful."

Bonetti will bow out of full-time soccer at the end of the season when he is given a testimonial by the Stamford Bridge club in recognition of his long and faithful service. Incredibly, Peter has spent 21 years with Chelsea, experiencing many changes in the fortune for the London club.

He has seen managers come and go and now his turn arrives to move on. He will take over the running of a small boarding house on the island this Spring.

"The testimonial will finish my full-time professional career in the game," says the likeable Bonetti. "But my new life in Scotland will give me some free time and if any club is prepared to use me on a part-time basis I shall certainly listen to what the have to say."

Bonetti has always been known as a fitness fanatic and it could be a Scottish club will move swiftly

for the man who has won seven England international caps.

It will be a startling transformation for Bonetti, but life should be great for him in the remote part of Scotland. Mull shouldn't, however, be confused with "The Mull of Kintyre" which Paul McCartney's "Wings" made famous with their chart-topping single in 1977. That is an entirely different island.

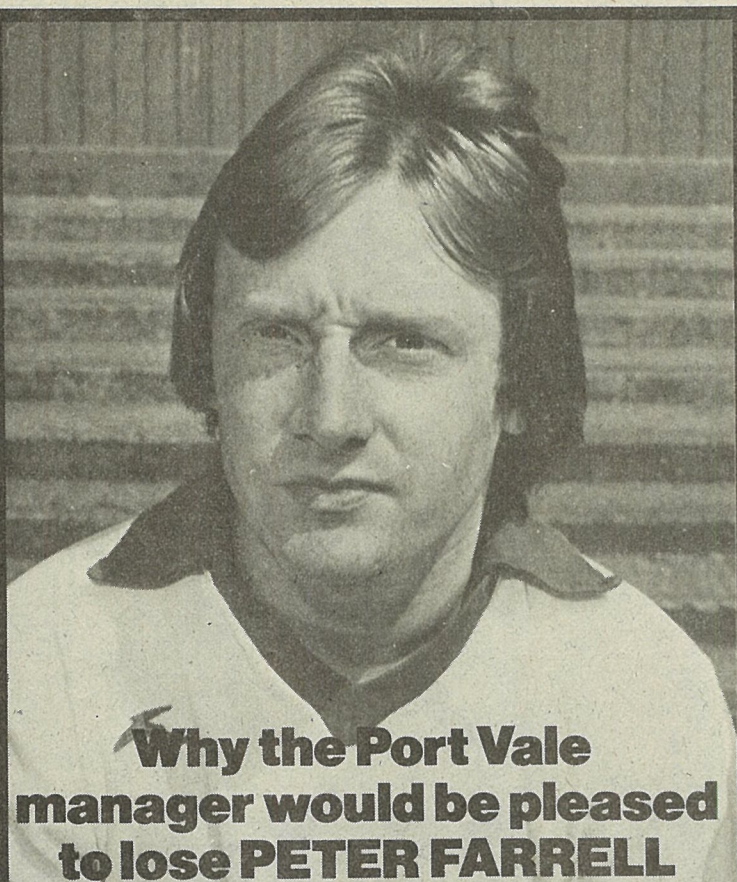
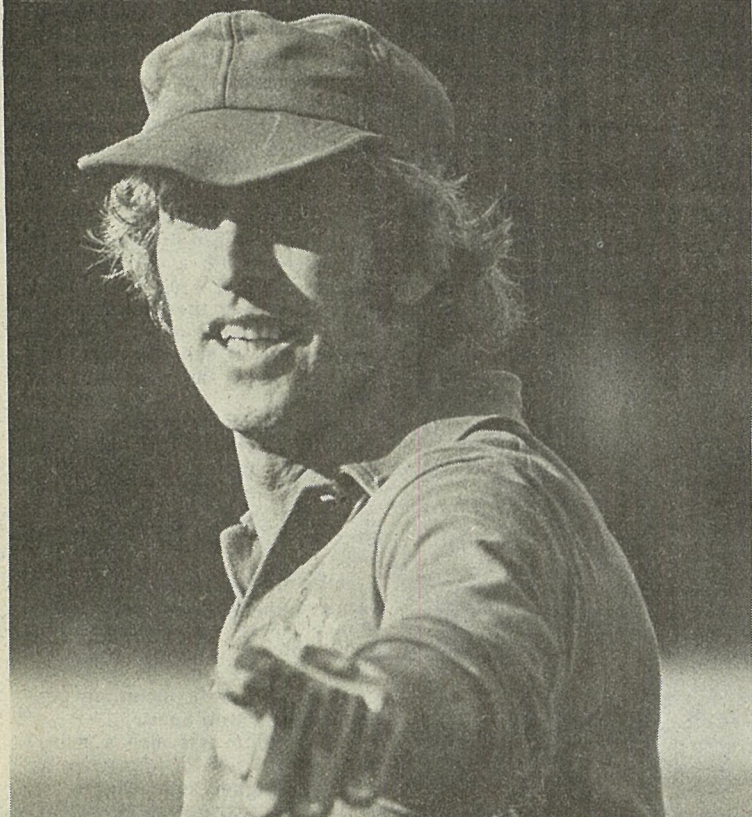
Anyway, Bonetti will have ten acres of land on Mull and he should eke a lucrative living even without football. His children Suzanne, 13, Kim, 11, Nicholas, nine, and Lisa, seven, will also enjoy life on the island.

Respected

Getting back to football, though, it would be surprising if a goalkeeper of the calibre of Bonetti was not snatched-up by a Scottish club. There could be problems bringing him to the mainland in time for games, but it would be worth it if "The Cat" showed even a glimpse of the form that has made him such a respected figure in British soccer.

Several Scottish clubs have been haunted by goalkeeper worries over recent years and no doubt many of them will be remembering the wonderful service Celtic had from Ronnie Simpson when he arrived from Hibs on the wrong side of 30 and went on to help the Parkhead club becoming Champions of Europe in 1967.

It's going to be an interesting new life for Bonetti and his family. He has given English audiences a great deal of pleasure for the past 21 years. Now it could be the turn of Scottish fans to be entertained.



Why the Port Vale manager would be pleased to lose PETER FARRELL

NINETY seconds — that's how long it took Peter Farrell, the former Bury midfielder player, to sign for his new club Port Vale in November.

"It was funny really," says Peter, "because the lads were outside when I went to talk to Vale boss, Dennis Butler. He said, 'That's the fastest signing I've ever done.' I couldn't believe it myself. The players were shocked. But that's how pleased I was to get away from Gigg Lane and start enjoying my football again."

"I'm delighted, and from what I've seen of Port Vale I think they can go places. The set-up is tremendous. When I asked for a move Bury boss, Dave Hatton, only wanted me to go to a First or Second Division club. I wouldn't have come to Vale Park, but I knew the manager. He brought me into League football."

Peter, now 21, arrived at Gigg Lane when he was 17 from Cheshire League club Ormskirk and it was a friendly match fixed by Alan Woolfall that did the trick.

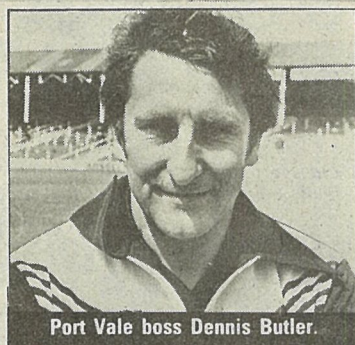
"Ormskirk played Bury reserves," recalls Peter. "We won 7-2 and I was playing against Dennis Butler, who was coach at the time. Immediately after the match Dennis told team manager, Bobby Smith, to sign me."

Peter made his debut against Tranmere in 1976. "We won 2-1 and I scored," he says.

Not long afterwards Peter attracted the attention of several First Division clubs and was bracketed in the £100,000 class. "I was playing really well," he says, "then bump. Two cartilages put me on the sidelines. In the last 18 months I've only played around 25 matches."

"I came back for the final seven games of last season and I scored four goals."

"When I started playing again



Port Vale boss Dennis Butler.

the clubs began to look, but they were worried about my knee in case it didn't stand up to it. Yet my knee's great. I went to Port Vale for £40,000 and I'm glad it was a low fee. Most people expected me to go for about £100,000 which was ridiculous."

"It's true I did suffer a loss of form at Bury, but my strengths are passing, vision and control with an aptitude for going forward. I like breaking from the middle of the park, but I was put in a defensive role and I think that was the cause of it. Since coming to Port Vale I've played the way I used to."

"I have no regrets at leaving Bury even though Dave Hatton wanted me to stay. He's always had faith in my ability, for which I thank him. He tried to fix me up with a First or Second Division club, which was very pleasing."

"My ambition is to win promotion with Port Vale now and to do well for the club. But I think, if a First Division club does come in for me, then Dennis Butler will be pleased to let me go."

"Fourth Division football? I thought it would be all kick and rush, but I've been pleasantly surprised with the standard."

"I'm happy here and morale is sky high."



WITH the season now into its second half, relegation — soccer's ugliest word — is already staring some clubs firmly in the face.

In the First Division, the annual fight for survival began back in November when Wolves, Birmingham City and Chelsea started to lose touch with the rest.

By Christmas, fourth from bottom Bolton were five points clear of Wolves, lying one place below them.

This season has been so dull. With the exception of Forest, and perhaps the enterprising West Brom, there has been no really outstanding team.

Everything has looked so predictable . . . even the relegation issue.

Injuries to key players is one reason a team can find itself in trouble. Sometimes it's a loss of confidence after a run of bad results.

More often than not, teams are promoted and then find it tough going in the First because they are not really equipped for a higher standard of football.

They are unable to strengthen the

side because finances won't allow it.

Players are injured and their replacements aren't ready, or good enough, to fill their places.

Only Manchester United, Nottingham Forest, West Brom, and for a season Q.P.R., have made any real impact since winning promotion over the past five years or so.

Bristol City deserve a mention because they have made sensible, steady progress since their return to the top with West Brom in 1975-76.

Manager Alan Dicks made no rash promises. He knew it would take time to secure the club as a worthy First Division outfit. He's succeeded with shrewd buying and a gradual introduction of youngsters.

Funny thing about promoted teams. The club finishing third in the Second are usually more successful in the First than the Second Division Champions or runners-up.

Forest are a prime example. They scraped through in 1976-77, one point above Bolton, and have since won the Championship and League Cup.

This season they are in conten-

'I hope Chelsea

Chelsea (dark shirts) v. Bolton. Both Clubs are struggling for survival.



my soccer scene
**GORDON
& HILL**

tion for all the major prizes, including the European Cup.

Brian Clough's club are soccer's most incredible success story of modern times.

The season Forest came up, Wolves were Second Division Champions and Chelsea second.

Both have struggled for survival since and are now well on course for the drop.

Wolves, who recently announced a fantastic £10 million redevelopment plan over the next five years, might well be advised to spend a fraction of that on buying some new players to strengthen the team.

Players first . . . stadium second. That's how it should be. I mean, look at the plight Chelsea are now in.

Mainly because of their ambitious plans for Stamford Bridge the club is burdened with a crippling £2½ million debt.

The only way they can find the cash to buy their way out of trouble is ironically to sell off their best players, such as skipper Ray Wilkins.

Sadly they find themselves in a Catch 22 situation. They must first sell to buy survival.

Chelsea and Wolves have both appointed new managers in an attempt to breathe new life into the clubs.

At the moment, Wolves boss John Barnwell appears to have the better chance of saving the club from going down.

I know quite a few of the lads at Chelsea very well, including general-manager Ron Suart.

Ken Shellito was also a man I liked a lot. I felt for him when he recently resigned as manager.

More problems for Birmingham City manager Jim Smith (light suit).



That decision must have hurt him tremendously because I know how passionately involved he was with the club. It was his life.

As you know I don't like to see any club in trouble, especially those from London.

I realise this won't make me popular among fans of the other clubs in the relegation zone, but I sincerely hope Chelsea's manager Danny Blanchflower does manage

Tommy Docherty has also sold players and introduced new faces in an effort to rebuild the team.

Basically the side is inexperienced at the moment, but we are trying very hard to get things together.

A good result against Bolton at the Baseball Ground this Saturday (January 20th) will go some way to restoring our confidence and form.

Their first season back upstairs

survive'

to perform a miracle at Stamford Bridge.

Although his first game as boss ended disastrously, they were thrashed 7-2 at Ayresome Park by Middlesbrough.

It won't give me any satisfaction either if Birmingham City are relegated.

Last season, when new manager Jim Smith took over, results improved and fans at last began to have real hope for a better future at St. Andrews.

But this season it's been the blues for The Blues. Sure they've missed the injured Trevor Francis, but I feel they should have done a bit better.

Alan Buckley, their new striker from Walsall — a player Derby were also chasing — has added punch to the front-line, but not enough it seems to help send Birmingham soaring up the table.

Football in this country needs big city clubs like Birmingham to be a success. If they could only make the breakthrough their crowd-pulling power and potential would be frightening.

If Brum can attract crowds of 25-30,000 when they are near the bottom of the First Division think of the gates at St Andrews if they were challenging for the title.

Mind you, Derby haven't exactly broken any records in the First Division have they?

But talk of us being relegated is nonsense. True I've been disappointed with the way things have gone for me and the club, but we'll sort out the problems.

The Rams have been hit by a crippling injury list. At some time or other practically every member of the first team has been out.

has obviously disappointed Burnden Park fans, but whenever I've seen them play they've given me the impression of being a useful side.

There's certainly plenty of experience around at Bolton, with Alan Gowling, Frank Worthington, Tony Dunne and Willie Morgan. They also went into the transfer market and signed midfielder, Neil McNab from Tottenham Hotspur.

Manager Ian Greaves, a man I admire for all the hard work and dedication he's given to the club, strengthened his backroom staff recently with the appointment of former Middlesbrough and Doncaster boss Stan Anderson as his assistant.

Former Bolton hero Nat Loft-house is also back at Burnden as general-manager of their Executive Club. Just having him around must give the players, especially the youngsters, a boost.

Bolton beat Derby 2-1 at Burnden earlier in the season, thanks to a couple of goals by Alan Gowling.

This is an important game for both clubs. Clubs in the lower half of the table usually aim for a target of 32 points . . . that's the minimum for survival.

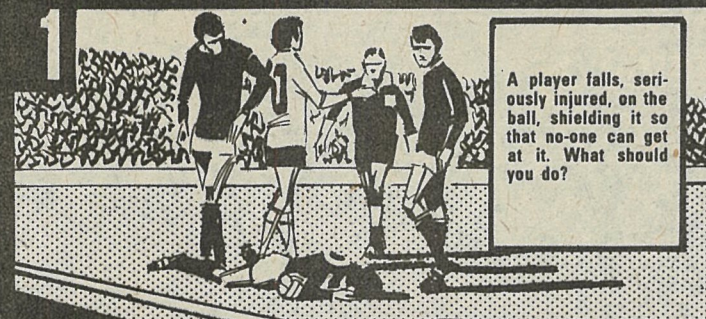
Two more for Derby at the weekend will help ensure our safety at least.

Gordon Hill



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS



2

At a throw-in an opponent stands less than a yard from the thrower. Should you . . . (a) Order the opponent to move a further distance, or, (b) Take no action?



4

You are restarting play with a drop ball in the penalty-area. Can a goalkeeper be one of the two players to challenge for the ball? (a) No or (b) Yes?



3

At half-time while the players are walking through the tunnel, a player uses foul language to you. Should you . . . (a) Caution him, or (b) Dismiss him from the match?



5

Is there a definite number of times the referee must blow on his whistle to signal the end of the match?



ANSWERS

1. Stop play and restart the game with a dropped ball.
2. (B) Take no action.
3. (B) Dismiss him from the match. It is sometimes very difficult, especially when the referee has made a controversial decision, to walk through the tunnel without a comment being made. Recently in the match between Q.P.R. and Leeds, I gave a penalty for Q.P.R. in the 42nd minute and then changed it for a free-kick. I was still trying to explain the reason for it going through the tunnel.
4. (A) No.
5. No. Although I always blow my whistle a few times and point to the tunnel, so all spectators are aware it is the end.

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Replays

What is the highest number of replays ever needed to settle an F.A. Cup-tie?

QUENTIN EDWARDS,
BATH

● It's five replays — that's six meetings altogether — Quentin.

The match concerned was a Fourth Round Qualifying Round tie between Alvechurch and Oxford City in the 1971-72 season.

The total playing-time (including extra-time) was 11 hours.

Euro record

What's the record score in a European club competition — in a single game, and on two-leg aggregate?

PAUL DIGGINS,
MIDDLESBROUGH

● In a single game, Paul, it's 16-1 — by which margin Sporting Lisbon beat Apoel Nicosia in the Cup-Winners' Cup on 13th November, 1963.

In September, 1971, also in the Cup-Winners' Cup, Chelsea beat Jeunesse

Hautcharage 21-0 on aggregate — following-up an 8-0 win in Luxembourg with a 13-0 triumph at home.

Saints hammered

Please settle an argument between a Leeds and a Southampton supporter. Did Leeds beat them 7-0 — and, if so, when?

PETER DICKSON,
COLCHESTER

● They certainly did, Peter — in a First Division game on 4th March, 1972.

The goals came from Allan Clarke (two), Peter Lorimer (three), Jack Charlton, and Mick Jones.

Bobby Gould

As a Finnish follower of English football, I was interested to read Bobby Gould is now playing for Hereford. How

many League clubs has he had altogether?

MATTI EINIO,
FINLAND

● Quite a few, Matti! Much-travelled Bobby kicked-off with Coventry — after which he moved on to Arsenal, Wolves, West Bromwich, Bristol City, West Ham, Wolves (again), and Bristol Rovers before joining Hereford in September.

Away fans

I'm a loyal supporter of Ajax, and go to all their away games as well as those at home. I'd like to know which English team is best supported in their away games?

PETER VLEVVELS,
HOLLAND

● Well, Peter, last season it was Liverpool. A total of 759,583 spectators

watched their 21 away First Division games.

Next came Nottingham Forest (724,522), and Leeds (654,903).

At home, though, it was a different matter — with Manchester United's 1,089,055 comfortably ahead of next-best Liverpool's 956,466.

Everton on top

Who's won the most League games between Liverpool and Everton?

JANET PODESTA,
SALE

● Their very first League meetings were back in the 1894-95 season, Janet.

All told, they have now met 119 times in the League — and, including their 1-0 Goodison victory on 28th October, Everton now lead by 44 wins to 40, with 35 drawn.

SHORT PASSES

● Billy Bremner played in 54 full internationals for Scotland.

(F. SPEEDAY, South Africa)

● Doncaster's appearance record is held by Fred Emery, who played 406 League games between 1925 and 1936.

(STEVEN BEEVERS, Doncaster)

● Kenny Dalglish was born in Glasgow on 4th March, 1951.

(JACKIE DICKS, London, S.E.21)

● Chelsea's 1970 F.A. Cup-winning team was Bonetti, Webb, McCreadie, Hollins, Dempsey, Harris, Baldwin, Houseman, Osgood, Hutchinson, Cooke (sub. Hinton).

(ANTHONY STACK, Co. Cork)

● Manchester City's goals in the 2-1 victory over Gornik Zabrze in the 1970 Cup-Winners' Cup Final were scored by Neil Young and Francis Lee (penalty).

(GARETH NOCK, Benfleet)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

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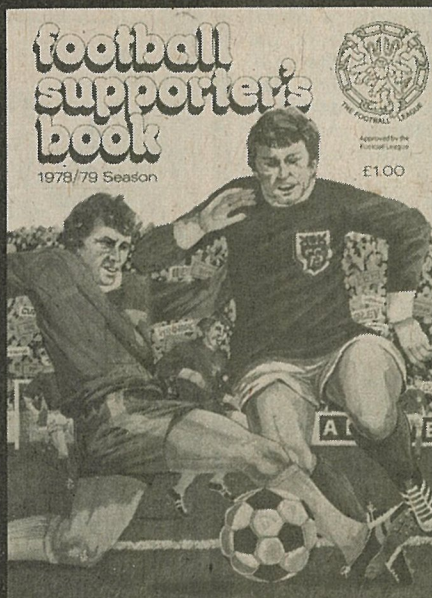
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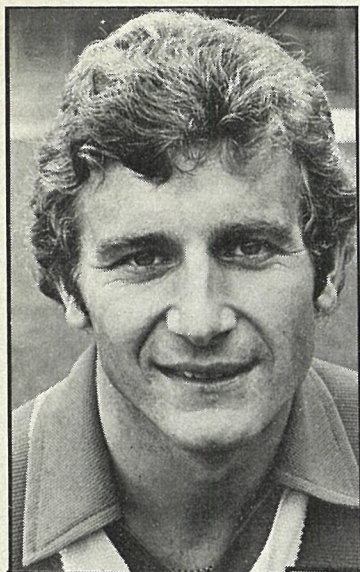
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ST5

BIG MATCH CROSS TALK

between Sunderland's Mike Docherty, now playing in midfield, and Palace striker Vince Hilaire.



MIKE DOCHERTY

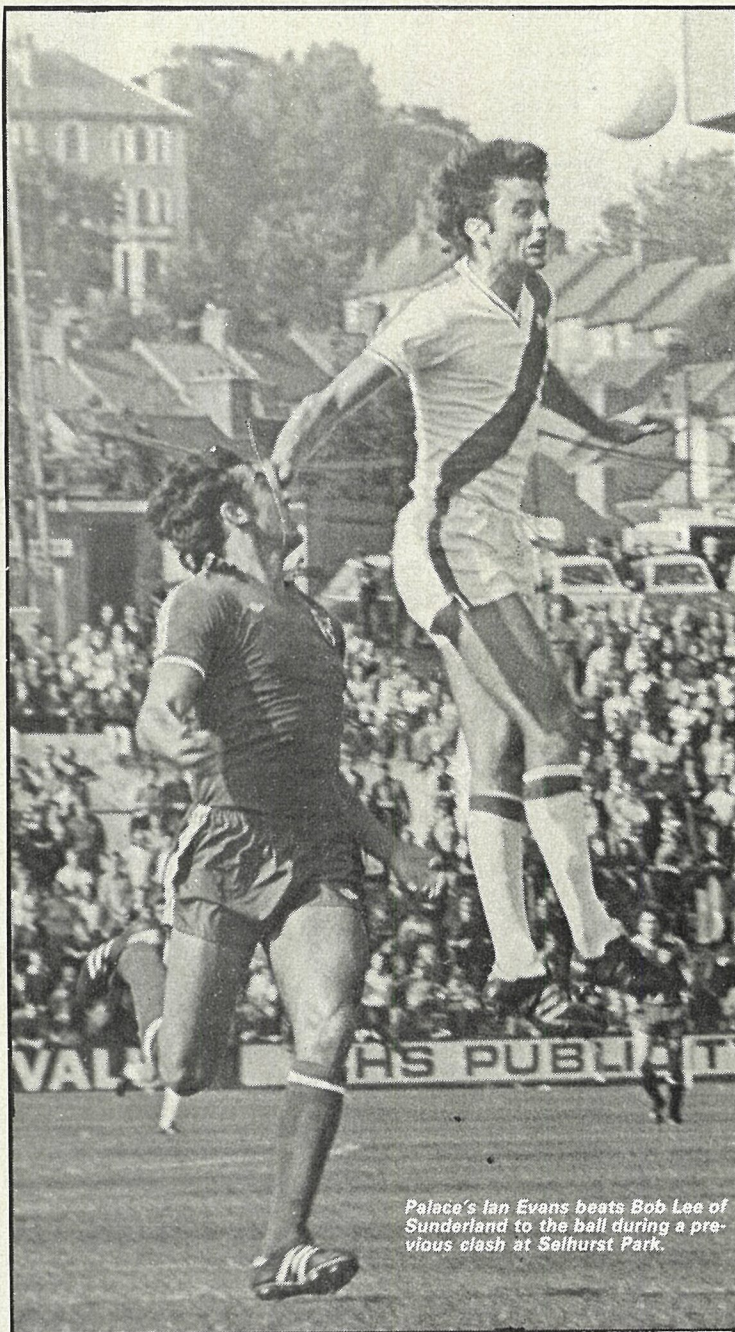
DOCHERTY: Hello, Vince, I'm looking forward to another good tussle with Palace on Saturday. We had a hard-fought game at your place early in the season and I thought you were rather lucky to get a 1-1 draw.

HILAIRE: I have to agree with you on that one, Mike. We equalised with a late penalty but you created the better chances and also had a goal disallowed. I was very impressed with your two centre-backs, Shaun Elliott and Jeff Clarke, and with your full-back Joe Bolton.

DOCHERTY: Yes, they've been in marvellous form this season but our mainspring has been Gary Rowell. He's been getting a lot of goals and young Wayne Entwistle has come in to collect his share as well. They could end up with 30 goals between them.

HILAIRE: Rowell impressed me at Selhurst Park, as well. You don't need to tell me anything about Wayne, because we once played together in the England youth team. He's a real old-fashioned centre-forward. He puts his head in places where some players wouldn't even put their feet. He was great to play alongside, as he did all the donkey work for me. But I don't know about playing against him.

DOCHERTY: It's hard to pick out individuals in your side, because I think you're strong all-round, especially in defence. I can't see you giving many goals away. And unless you do something silly, I really can't see anyone taking the title off you. West Ham may run you close but I think after that, there could be eight or nine teams fighting over the third promotion spot.



Palace's Ian Evans beats Bob Lee of Sunderland to the ball during a previous clash at Selhurst Park.

SUNDERLAND v. CRYSTAL PALACE

Saturday, January 13th

HILAIRE: It's nice of you to say so, but we're trying to play the whole thing down at the moment. We don't even want to talk about going up. Dave Swindlehurst is the most improved player in our side this season. He has looked very sharp up-front. And Mike Elwiss has settled down and started to justify his £200,000 fee. So they're two for you to look out for.

DOCHERTY: We've been showing our best form away from home this term. Our fans are so keen for us to do well they tend to rush us

into playing in a way we don't really want. One of the lessons we've learned from last term is to be patient. It applies especially to the younger lads. Instead of all this kick and rush, they've come to know when and where to run. I think the Second Division is very much a rush League and if you can keep your heads, you will do all right.

HILAIRE: That's true, but at home this term, we've become a much quicker side. Last season, we built it up from the back and sides kept



VINCE HILAIRE

catching us out at our place. Now, we try and get the ball forward as soon as possible and it's been working well for us. Talking of promotion, I thought when we played you in London you were a side who would definitely be in the running.

DOCHERTY: We're in with a chance, but it's getting so bunched we can't afford to slip-up in many more games. Quite a few teams have impressed me. Burnley could be an outside bet. Stoke, like Palace, are pretty solid, but I've got a feeling they might slip up. The way things are going, we might not know for certain about promotion until Easter.

HILAIRE: We aren't getting too excited yet, as I've said. But we hope to be thereabouts. Obviously, it's an important game at Roker Park, and it's the sort of place you look forward to playing because of the atmosphere and the conditions.

DOCHERTY: I sometimes think that works against us. When teams come to our place and they see the size of the crowd and find an excellent playing surface when maybe the previous week they were on a muddy pitch, it tends to lift them. And the crowd expect so much of us we can't always satisfy them.

HILAIRE: I didn't play at Roker Park last season, which was my first full season in the Second Division. So I'm really looking forward to this time.

DOCHERTY: I reckon it will be another tight, competitive game, although I know you will play if we give you the chance. Whatever happens, I'm sure it will be a great match.

HILAIRE: I hope so, Mike.

WALLCH

Third Round.....	January 6th
Fourth Round.....	January 27th
Fifth Round.....	February 17th
Sixth Round.....	March 10th
Semi-Finals.....	March 31st
Final.....	May 12th

Second Round.....	January 6th
Third Round.....	January 27th
Fourth Round.....	February 17th
Fifth Round.....	March 10th
First Semi-Final.....	April 4th
Second Semi-Final.....	April 11th
Final.....	May 12th

[illegible]

Aston Villa 7, Blackburn Rovers 6, Newcastle United 6, The Wanderers 5, Tottenham Hotspur 5, West Brom 5, Sheffield United 4, Bolton Wanderers 4, Wolverhampton Wanderers 4, Manchester City 4, Arsenal 4, Manchester United 4, Sheffield Wednesday 3, Everton 3, Bury 2, Liverpool 2, Old Etonians 2, Preston North End 2, Nottingham Forest 2, Sunderland 2, West Ham 2, Barnsley 1, Blackburn Olympic 1, Blackpool 1, Bradford City 1, Burnley 1, Cardiff City 1, Charlton Athletic 1, Chelsea 1, Clapham Rovers 1, Derby County 1, Huddersfield Town 1, Notts County 1, Old Carthusians 1, Oxford University 1, Portsmouth 1, Royal Engineers 1, Leeds United 1, Southampton 1, Ipswich 1.

Celtic 25, Rangers 22, Queen's Park 10, Hearts 5, Clyde 3, Vale Of Leven 3, Aberdeen 2, Dunfermline 2, Falkirk 2, Hibernian 2, Kilmarnock 2, Renton 2, St Mirren 2, Third Lanark 2, Airdrie 1, Dumbarton 1, Dundee 1, East Fife 1, Morton 1, Motherwell 1, Partick 1, St Bernard's 1.



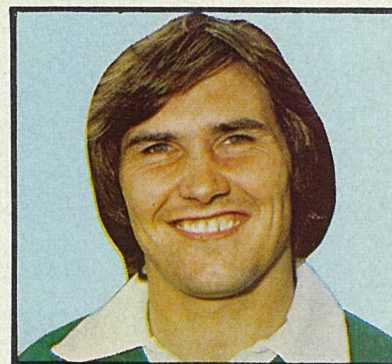
ART 1979



Bolton striker Alan Gowling (left) keeps close control of this situation as Chelsea's Ron Harris challenges.



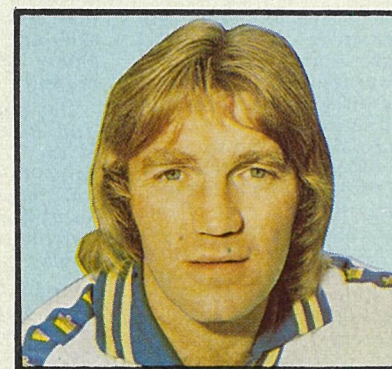
Peter Barnes (Man. City)



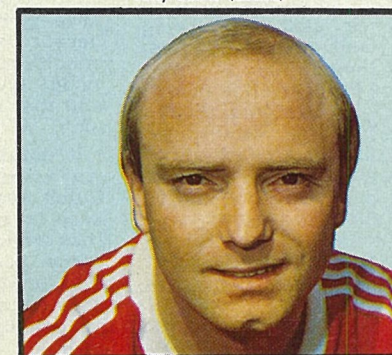
Jackie McNamara (Hibs)



Willie Carr (Wolves)



Tony Currie (Leeds)



David Armstrong (M'boro)

THE BEST AND WORST



England's Tony Currie (right) shoots at Czechoslovakia's goal. Although England won 1-0, it was regarded as disappointing.



'BRIGHTER FOREST — DISMAL ENGLAND'

John Hollins
(Q.P.R.)

I'd say the best thing of the season so far concerns Nottingham Forest. It's marvellous really. They've had plenty of injuries, yet have won through to the last eight of the European Cup and still managed to retain the same high standard of quality play. That thrills me immensely.

Their skill is excellent, work-rate high; passing is good, general quality high — and they are still scoring spectacular goals. It amazes me the way their goals are shared out so evenly.

The good points of Nottingham Forest are still being maintained — and that's got to be one of the best things about the first half of this season. They like to attack and get forward and they've done that even in difficult away ties in the European Cup. Their match in Greece against AEK Athens illustrated the point.

They are not changing their attitude on how to play the game, even though they are now in Europe. Their skills are being expressed and that's a most heartening thing.

The worst aspect of this season must be England's dismal display against the Czechs at Wembley — I really was disappointed. It wasn't only a case of England not adapting to the conditions, you can go on forever about the wrong studs and everything. But what disappointed me was the way we didn't even do the simple things correctly.

Though the Czechs won the European Championship in 1976,

they are still trying to improve their side and they had a lot of new names there. But from England's point of view, it was all dreadfully disappointing. We will always look good against an aggressive side — in the games with Scotland, Wales, and the Irish sides it's always a battle and we're good at that. But when it comes down to skill and taking on teams with plenty of talent, it's a different matter.

The aggressive sides suit England. But when it came to the skill of the Czechs, there was, to be quite honest, simply no comparison between the two sides. The result was a joke — but for Shilton, we would have got the hiding our display merited.

I hadn't been to Wembley to watch England for a long time but I saw the same lesson taught us by the Czechs as the Dutch had handed out when Cruyff and Co. destroyed us. We don't seem to have come on much from there because we just didn't adapt to the conditions. It was the simple things we were falling down on and that was the worst aspect of all.

It proved we still have a long way to go to match sides like the Dutch and the Czechs. You can't keep on playing against top countries where they are just going to battle. Some day, it's going to be skill for skill and that's what happened against the Czechs. When it happened, we simply weren't up to it.

FOUR PLAYERS GIVE

'IMPROVED GUNNERS — DISAPPOINTING HOME NATIONS'

Willie Young
(Arsenal)



THE best thing I'd say from the season so far has been the remarkable development of our Arsenal side. It has not only surprised us but most of our First Division rivals and some clubs in Europe, too.

When we lost Malcolm MacDonald with a cartilage operation early in the season, everyone thought it was the start of a disastrous spell for Arsenal. We had no experienced reserves, no player to cover for Malcolm — and little hope, it seemed. It's no secret the boss tried to buy a couple of players but couldn't do so. And therefore, we had to just pin our faith in the youngsters, who were untried in the reserves.

What happened was astonishing. Kids like Steve Gattin, Mark Heeley, John Kosmina, Steve Walford and John Devine all came through into the first team squad. Several of them got into the side for the European matches — and they all did well.

It proved we had the youngsters of real ability ready to show what they could do. The kids took their chance extremely well. That has got to be one of the best things about the new season, up to this stage.

The poor form of our international sides in the European Championship is the worst aspect of this season. Scotland suffered

defeats in Austria and Portugal, and England were so lucky to beat the Czechs. I went to Wembley to see that one and the Czechs were streets ahead of England in class.

The struggles of our national sides must be a great disappointment to everyone. You're looking to them to fly the flag for Britain, but it's been left to the League clubs like Nottingham Forest, West Brom, Manchester City and us to advertise our football abroad.

The England-Czech game emphasised the greater class Continental players still have. It wasn't a competitive game, so perhaps England weren't getting involved as they might normally have done. But I doubt it. England didn't win the ball in the middle of the park and, but for Peter Shilton, who was magnificent, they would have been well beaten.

Scotland, too, were disappointing. They struggled to beat even Norway at home, and then lost two matches away.

Wales achieved two wins but we won't know how good they are until they play West Germany. I've a feeling it will be different then especially as they could only beat Turkey 1-0 at home. Northern Ireland have done better and got a great result in Sofia against Bulgaria. But apart from them, it's been a miserable six months for our international sides.



Arsenal players celebrate the only goal of the game that clinched victory for The Gunners over Liverpool.

OF THE SEASON SO FAR

THEIR IMPRESSIONS



'PROGRESS IN EUROPE — WORLD CUP FAILURE'

Asa Hartford
(Manchester City)

THE FINE performances of English clubs in European competition has to be the highlight of the season up to this stage. Throughout the world, English clubs are under the microscope and the performances of Nottingham Forest, West Bromwich Albion, and ourselves have given English club football a real boost by doing well in Europe.

I can see Forest going all the way in the European Cup. I reckon there are really only FC Cologne and Glasgow Rangers to stop them. And the two clubs left in the U.E.F.A. Cup have also done well.

Alongside that, I'd say the best thing so far this season has been the emergence of foreign players into our League. That's got to be good for everyone — officials, players and spectators. Officials have been reaping the rewards at the gates, the players have seen how foreign players play and can learn things from them and the fans have seen world class stars playing in the English First Division. It has been a terrific step forward.

There should be a limit of perhaps two foreigners to each side; that's sensible because it will safeguard the future of our own young stars. But seeing SOME foreign players here has been a marvellous sight.

Two things I rate as the worst

aspects of the season is our disgraceful League form at Manchester City, and England's failure to go to Argentina for the World Cup. That may be dipping into history but I still count June and the World Cup as part of this year's footballing scene.

England under Ron Greenwood have a great record and it must go down as a disappointment they didn't compete in the World Cup.

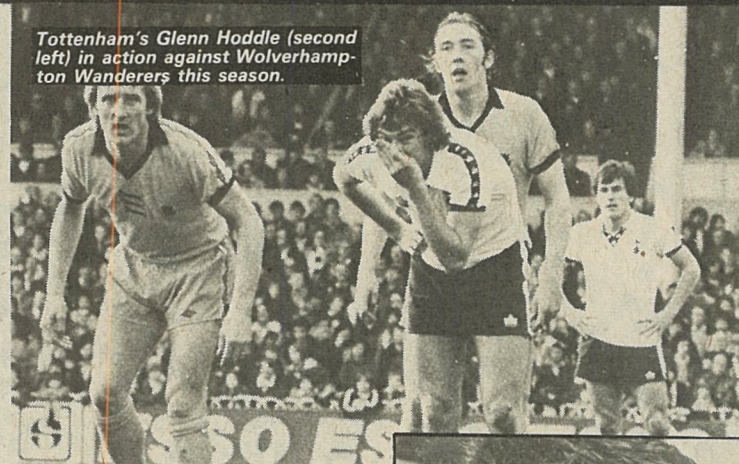
From Manchester City's point of view, our form in the League is disturbing. It's really been nothing short of disgraceful. To see us wallowing outside the first ten with the calibre of players we have, is absurd.

We just haven't been consistent; that's what it boils down to. We have played well in some matches like the League Cup-tie at Norwich and the U.E.F.A. Cup first-leg in Milan. Those were great results but then we've come home and played thoroughly badly. It's hard to say why.

We should be doing more for one another and playing rather more as a team, than we have been doing. I think one of the problems has been that we've relied too much on individuals to do it for us on the day. That's no good at all. We should have been grafting away together but it hasn't happened.



Asa (left) is tackled by Iran's Kazerani during Scotland's World Cup failure in Argentina.



Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle (second left) in action against Wolverhampton Wanderers this season.

'GOOD YOUNGSTERS — BAD REFEREES'

Dennis Mortimer
(Aston Villa)



THE RAPID development of a score of youngsters who can ensure a fine future for England pleased me most so far this season. I look at players like Kenny Sansom (Crystal Palace), Viv Anderson (Nottingham Forest), Gary Owen (Manchester City), Glenn Hoddle (Spurs), Derek Statham (West Brom) and Steve Daly (Wolves) and I'm tremendously heartened.

The emergence of so many good young players who have sheer class and skill is great for English football. It ought to mean we will have a fine future ahead of us. These players will provide the back-bone of the England side for the next few years and our future couldn't be in better hands.

It's exciting to see players coming through who have individual ability and are not afraid to use it.

As well as the ones I've mentioned, there are many other players in the junior sides who will be catching the eye in, say, three seasons time. At Villa we've got some highly promising kids coming through; some with real talent. They look something special even at this early stage.

If they're brought into a team playing good football and a side that is doing well, their ability will show straight away.

The worst aspect of the season? It's got to be this abysmal situation regarding referees. I've been very disappointed with their standard this season, and clearly I'm only one of thousands saying that now. Officials we've had this sea-

son have shown a terrible lack of consistency. How you play, and how well you do now, often depends on what sort of referee you get. If you have one who is with it and plays advantage laws, you have a good chance of playing well and getting your game together. But if you get a bad one, it's hopeless.

A lot of referees tend to blow up too often for petty little things. I think if they would use their commonsense more and keep the game flowing, the whole situation would be improved. The fans would welcome it, too.

But despite the situation, I'm not in favour of professional referees. I think they would know the game so well they'd be over-reacting, blowing their whistle for the most minor offences. Games would never flow. I think the answer lies with the players — but I've been very unhappy with the response of the players.

I believe it's down to them to solve the problem. The ref is not always to blame. We all know there are some players who trick the referee into things. It's up to us to stop doing that and make the ref's life easier, help him.

Players could play the game fairer by not lying down, feigning serious injury and generally trying to con the ref to get someone booked. The refereeing situation has been the most disturbing aspect of the season so far. But it's a problem we could help solve ourselves.

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Apart from our exciting **FREE GIFT** of the Football '79 album there's an all-star programme of features, colour photos, star-writers and your usual favourites.

COLOUR: Graham Rix (Arsenal), Charlton team group, Mel Eves (Wolves), Chris Nicholl (Southampton), Focus on Kevin Bond (Norwich City) and part three of our F.A Cup wallchart.



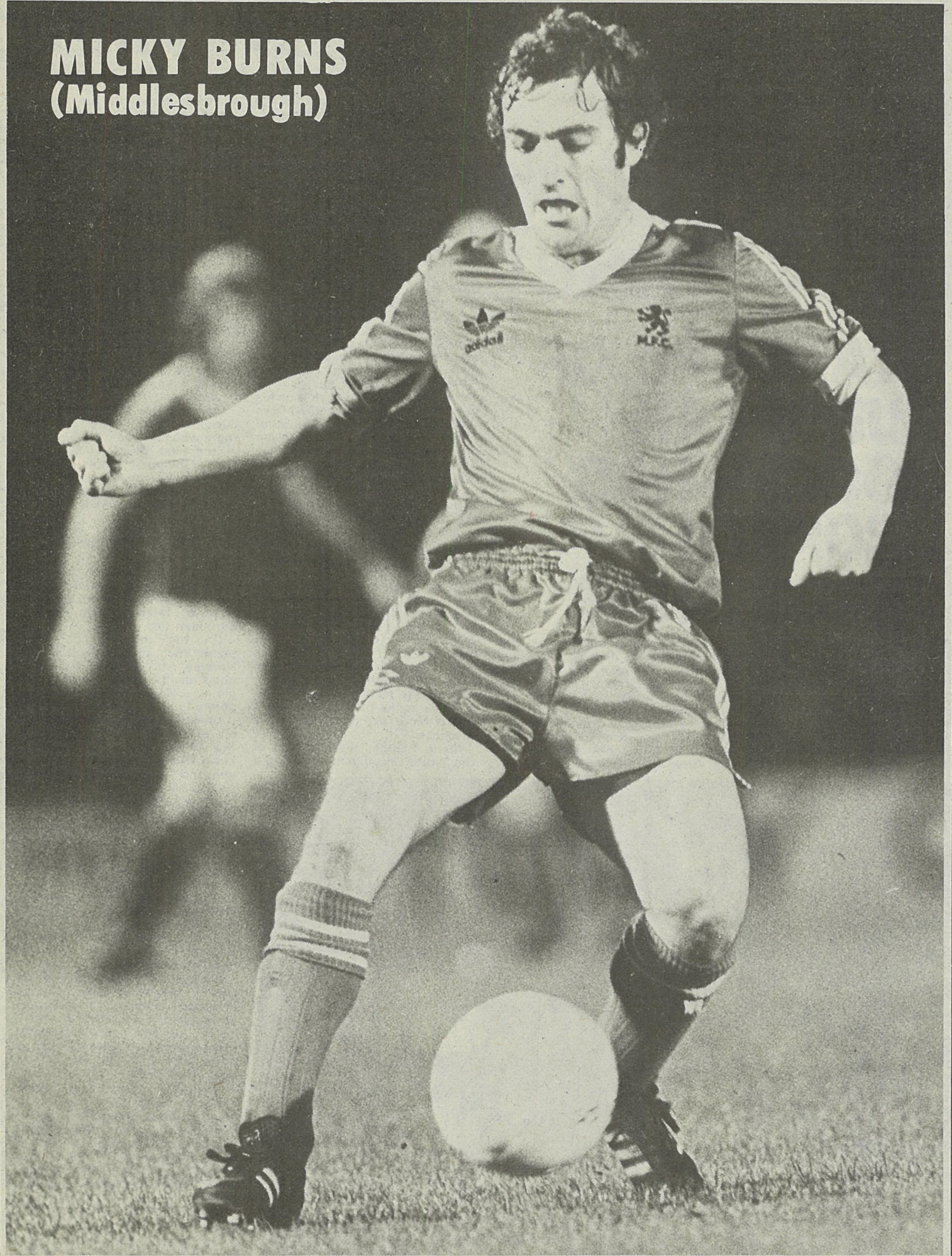
FEATURES: Tommy Hutchison (Coventry), Mike Flanagan (Charlton), Brian Hornsby (Sheffield Wednesday) and Paul Bennett (Reading) look at their particular Divisions of the League and talk about the teams they think will find success this season. The £300,000 Flop who is now a star at Leeds United — that's centre-half Paul Hart (above).

After a slow start to their Football League career Wigan are winning again. BBC Radio Sport producer John Helm on the problems of covering big matches abroad.

Neil McNab reveals why he left Spurs for Bolton. Also Gary Rowell (Sunderland) and Phil Neal (Liverpool). **SHOOT** compiles two formidable-looking teams from ex-Celtic and Rangers players. Club Spotlight on Charlton. Plus star-writers Ray Clemence, Gordon McQueen, Andy Gray and Derek Johnstone. And News Desk, World Wide, Ask The Expert, You Are The Ref, Goal-lines, Quiz Time, Big Match Crosstalk (West Brom v. Derby).

The only way to avoid missing this terrific soccer line-up and your Free Gift is to place an order for next week's SHOOT now!

MICKY BURNS
(Middlesbrough)



SHOOT!



England's Kevin Keegan . . . the Continent's top star.

STANDARD OF EUROPEAN SOCCER HAS DROPPED ALARMINGLY

NOBODY knows for certain what 1979 has in store for us, but I say with confidence that the overall standard of football in Europe will continue its downward trend. The drop in Euro soccer in the Seventies has been alarming; right now, we don't have a single Superteam and just one Superstar: Kevin Keegan.

The Seventies started well with Ajax showing us a new brand of football. The team has a group of players of roughly the same age and they went on to be European Champions three years in succession. Names like Cruyff, Neeskens, Haan, Rep, Krol, and Suurbier became household soccer names. After Ajax came Bayern Munich,

WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

technically brilliant, although nowhere near as exciting or original as the Dutch. They relied heavily on their three Superstars, Maier, Beckenbauer and Müller and with their inspiration, plus a good bit of luck and favourable refs, they, too, won the European Cup three times.

Then Liverpool took over and deservedly won their first European crown in 1977.

Liverpool began winning Euroties almost with ease. The standard of the competition dipped, as did international football. No new Superstars hit the big-time and the 1978 World Cup underlined just how much European soccer had stopped still. It's almost no shock now when David beats Goliath.

Franz Beckenbauer has gone to the Cosmos; Johan Cruyff is on his way. Gerd Müller has retired from the international scene. The other Dutch aces have found that seven or eight years of life at the top has blunted their edge.

Barcelona have dropped Neeskens this season. When Anderlecht were beaten by the Spanish club in the European Cup Winners' Cup, Haan and Rensenbrink were invisible. An Argentinian winger converted into a right-back called Zuviria was the star. Who?

Kevin Keegan is now Europe's top player, just reward for his persistence, dedication and honesty. Sadly, neither his club nor country has been in major competition recently.

The Germans have no new Superstars. Neither do the Dutch. It's too late for Kenny Dalglish to join the ranks of the elite, while Danny McGrain's injury halted his progress.

Mario Kempes was the star of the World Cup, but he's having a

wretched time with Valencia and is suffering from "footballitis". Too much soccer.

Where are the new Beckenbauers, Cruyffs, Moores, Bankses, Laws, Müllers etc? I can't see any!

Do you remember the 1976 European Championship? That memorable week in Yugoslavia when Czechoslovakia, Holland, West Germany and the hosts treated us to some exhilarating skills?

That was only two and a half years ago. The decline since then is alarming. European Champions Czechoslovakia have done nothing, Yugoslavia even less, while Europe's Big Two aren't anywhere near the powers they were. When Tunisia held West Germany to a draw (or was it the other way around?) something, somewhere is wrong.

Look at the last eight of the European Cup. There are clubs there who I'm sure would struggle in the First Division. To refresh your memory, the Austrian Champions were the side so comprehensively beaten by Anderlecht in last season's E.C.W.C.

Good results

If Forest and Rangers can avoid each other, they should meet in the Final, even allowing for some dubious refereeing in Eastern European ties.

On the international scene, teams such as Greece, Denmark, Norway and Finland have had good results, while Hungary, Belgium and France have disappointed.

I believe the Eighties could see an era with few Superstars or Superteams as we have come to know them. Sides will be built to win and last, rather than revolutionise and entertain.

In the 1974 World Cup Finals, I'd say the following players emerged as world-class (or reconfirmed this status): Vogts, Breitner, Beckenbauer, Overath, Müller, Krol, Haan, Neeskens, Cruyff, van Hanegem, Lato, Gadocha, Deyna, Marinho, Luiz Pereira, Rivelino, Hellström, Oblak, Katalinski, Mazzola, a long list.

This summer, only Mario Kempes emerged as an individual of outstanding quality.

Bettega and Rossi of Italy did well . . . but world-class? Not by previous standards. Holland's players didn't show up as individuals, unless to disappoint (Rensenbrink), to score long-range goals (Haan) or to kick (Haan again, and Rep).

I hope I'm proved wrong. I hope Forest or Rangers (or any British team) go on to dominate Europe. I hope one of our four Home countries becomes a force in international competition. I hope West Germany unearth Franz Beckenbauer II or Holland give us another Cruyff.

At the moment, though, I doubt it.

● the usual World Wide news round-up will be back next week.

Dobias scores for Czechoslovakia against West Germany in the 1976 European Championship Final. Since then the Czechs have failed to impress.



INTERNATIONAL سازمان فوتبال



Cruyff in action for the Cosmos against a team of World All Stars.

ing to join us, and I think he will sooner or later. I know he's very rich, but even Rockefeller would think twice before turning down three million dollars!"

A lot of people describe the NASL as the "elephants' cemetery" of world soccer, where ageing footballers go to live out peacefully the twilight of their careers. But some players actually seem to improve in the land of cheerleaders, artificial turf and electronic scoreboards that state the painfully obvious.

Coventry City's Steve Hunt is a case in point, and Giorgio Chinaglia is another. During his career with Lazio he relied on his 6ft 1in and 13½ stone to carry him

through the shirt-tugging and body-checking of Italian defenders . . . "Yes, I'm a bit of a 'giant' by Italian standards and my job was to act as a human bulldozer. Here I get much more of a chance to show that I can control the ball and play a bit as well."

Some critics claim that Chinaglia's improvement is a direct result of having played alongside Pelé.

"That isn't true, unfortunately! Remember I was already 28 when Pelé arrived, and I think that's too late for a player to change the habits of a lifetime. The man who did change me when I was young was Juan Carlos Lorenzo (now manager of South American

'Fear is killing soccer'

THERE'S been no shortage of Press reports about the progress of soccer in the U.S.A., and current Champions, the Cosmos, have definitely had their fair share of mileage in the world's media. But while Pelé, Beckenbauer and — more recently — Tueart have been stealing the headline, one man has been quietly and efficiently knocking in goal after goal for the NASL Champions. His name is Giorgio Chinaglia.

A TOTAL of 39 League goals made him the League's top scorer, and he proved that this was no fluke by hitting 21 more during the Cosmos world tour.

"Goals are the most beautiful thing in soccer. That's what the game is all about. And that's the way to attract fans to the stadium — lots of goals. Sometimes when I look back at the European scene, I see so many teams who are simply afraid of losing.

"They don't aim to score goals; they simply don't want to be beaten. A lot of teams don't even think about attacking until they're a goal down! Then they begin to

says Cosmos goal-ace GIORGIO CHINAGLIA

play, and if they equalise, it's back to defensive football!

"Ask them why they didn't play attacking football right through the match and they say they didn't want to leave gaps at the back for fear of conceding a goal. Fear. That's what's killing the game."

You can't accuse Chinaglia of being afraid. He's one of the few players who've positively decided to take the plunge and emigrate to U.S. soccer. He wasn't tempted by succulent offers — he just upped and went.

His marriage to an American girl was an important factor, and "Long John" Chinaglia is now an American citizen. He transferred his assets to New York and has invested them wisely in property and the stock market.

Not many soccer players study the daily Wall Street reports more closely and, seeing Giorgio without his white-and-green soccer strip you could be forgiven for thinking that he's "just another American businessman".

"It's true I'm not short of money," he admits, "and the Cosmos take care of their players well. There's talk of Johan Cruyff com-



Former West Germany captain Franz Beckenbauer — a success in the States.

Champions Boca Juniors).

"He was the manager at Lazio who gave me my big chance in the Italian First Division. Mamma mia, he made me work! The training sessions he put me through! Hours and hours every day, and even on Mondays when the rest of the squad had their day off."

Asking Chinaglia for a realistic appreciation of the progress of soccer in the States provokes the usual talk of attendances, comparisons with baseball, basketball and American Football, and statistics of TV coverage. No mention of what actually happens out there on the pitch!

"That's inevitable, I suppose. The Americans run everything in business terms, and Warners have invested millions of dollars in the Cosmos just as they would in any other business venture.

"And they treat the team just like any other product. The aim is to beat your competition on quality and to create a good brand-image. So far we're going well on both counts, and things like the development of home-grown American players will have to be taken very gradually . . ."

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

Continued SCOTTISH PREMIER

CELTIC 0
ABERDEEN 0 24,000
Celtic: Baines; Filippi, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Edvaldsson, Provan, McLeod, McAdam (Conn), Burns, Doyle.
Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McLelland, McMaster (Archibald), Rougvie, Miller, Strachan, Fleming, Harper, Jarvie, Sullivan.

DUNDEE UTD. (2) 3 (Dodds, Fleming, Narey pen.)
RANGERS (0) 0 15,247
Dundee U.: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Dodds, Sturrock, Holt, Payne (Addison), Kirkwood.
Rangers: McCloy; Fosyth (A), Dawson, Jardine, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell (Watson), Johnstone, Smith, Cooper (Parlane).

HIBS (1) 2 (Hutchinson, Higgins)
MOTHERWELL (1) 2 (Pettigrew 2) 6,000
Hibs: McDonald; Duncan, Smith, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Murray, McLeod, Hutchinson (Temperley), Callachan, Higgins.
Motherwell: Rennie; Shanks (Carr), Wark, Millar, McVie, McLeod, Capaldi, Pettigrew, Larnach, Clinging (Lindsay), Wilson.

PARTICK (1) 2 (Houston, Somner)
MORTON (0) 1 (Scott) 5,000
Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Anderson, McAdam (Rodman), Marr, Houston, Melrose (Gibson), O'Hara, Somner, Park.
Morton: Connaghan; Hayes, Holmes, Evans (McNeill), Orr, Rooney, Hutchinson, Miller, Thomson, Scott, Ritchie.

ST. MIRREN (1) 4 (Stark 2, Torrance, Hyslop)
HEARTS (0) 0 6,040
St. Mirren: Thomson; Beckett, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, Torrance (Hyslop), Abercrombie.
Hearts: Dunlop; Kidd, Brown, McNicoll (Craig), Liddell, Fraser, McQuade (Prentice), Bannon, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

LEAGUE CUP (Fifth Round)

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Boyer, Hebbard)
MAN. CITY (0) 1 (Nicholl o.g.) 21,500
Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hebbard, Holmes, Curran.
Man. City: Corrigan; Donachie (Barnes), Power, Booth, Watson, Owen, Channon, Bell, Kidd, Hartford, Deyna.

SECOND DIVISION

PRESTON (3) 6 (Coleman, Potts 2, Bruce 2, Robinson)
CHARLTON (0) 1 (Robinson) 8,500
Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave (Wilson), Robinson, Potts, Bruce.
Charlton: Wood; Shaw (Powell), Penfold, Tydeman, Shipperley, Berry, Brisley, Robinson, Flanagan, Madden, Peacock.

ANGLO-SCOTTISH FINAL (second-leg)

BURNLEY (0) 0
OLDHAM (1) 1 (Steel) 10,865
Burnley: Stevenson; Arins, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Hall, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, James.
Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Valentine, Steel, Young, Chapman, Gardner.



St. Mirren's Andy Dunlop played a vital part in their 4-0 win over Hearts.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

LEAGUE CUP (Fifth Round)

LEEDS (1) 4 (Cherry, Currie, Gray, E., Gray, F. pen)
LUTON (0) 1 (Stein) 28,177
Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Gray (E), Hankin, Hawley, Currie, Harris.
Luton: Findlay; Price, Aizlewood, Hill, Turner, Donaghy, West, Fuccillo, Stein, Hatton, Moss.

NOTTM FOREST (1) 3 (McGovern, Robertson, Birtles)
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Ward) 30,672
Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Needham, Lloyd, Bowyer, Gemmill, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.
Brighton: Moseley; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Poskett, Ward, Maybank (Clark), Sayer, O'Sullivan.

STOKE 0
WATFORD 0 26,070
Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Heath, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.
Watford: Sherwood; Stirr, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Pollard, Blissett, Jenkins, Joslyn, Downes.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

(Semi-Finals)

RANGERS (1) 3 (Jardine pen., Jackson, Casey o.g.)
CELTIC (1) 2 (Doyle, McAdam) aet at Hampden Park 49,432
Rangers: McCloy; Miller, Dawson, Jardine, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Johnstone, Watson, Cooper (Smith).
Celtic: Baines; Filippi, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Edvaldsson, Provan, Conroy (Casey), McAdam, Burns, Doyle.

HIBS (0) 0
ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Kennedy) aet at Dens Park, Dundee 21,048
Hibs: McDonald; Duncan, Kilgour, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Smith, McLeod, Refvik (Higgins), Callachan, Hutchinson.
Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McLelland, Sullivan, Rougvie, Miller, Strachan, Archibald, Harper, Jarvie (McMaster), Scanlon (Cooper).

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL (1) 2 (Price, Stapleton) 26,943
DERBY (0) 0
Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Walford, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gitting, Rix.
Derby: McKeller; Clark, Buckley, Daly, Daniel, Moreland, Carter, Powell, Duncan, Caskey, Hill.

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (McGuire o.g.)
NORWICH (0) 1 (Reeves) 26,228
Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Williams, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Craig, Deehan, Swain, Cowans, Gregory.
Norwich: Keelan; Bond, Davies, Ryan, Hoadeley, Powell, McGuire, Reeves, Chivers, Robson, Peters.

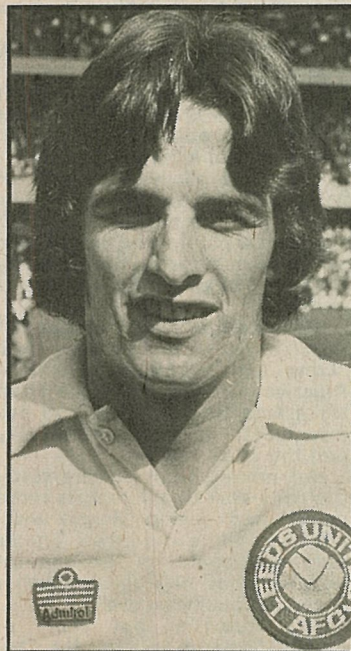
BRISTOL C (0) 1 (Royle)
LIVERPOOL (0) 0 28,722
Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Gillies, Gow, Rodgers, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Royle, Cormack, Mann (Whitehead).
Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Highbury (Johnson), McDermott, Souness.

EVERTON (0) 1 (Ross)
LEEDS (1) 1 (Hawley) 37,997
Everton: Wood; Todd, Pejic, Lyons, Wright, Ross, King, Dobson (Nulty), Latchford, Higgins, Thomas.
Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Gray (E), Hankin, Hawley, Currie, Harris.

IPSWICH (1) 3 (Mariner, Gates, Talbot)
BOLTON (0) 0 16,593
Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills (Parkin), Talbot, Butcher, Osman, Wark, Gates, Mariner, Muhren, Woods.
Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones (P), Walsh, Morgan, Reid, Gowing, Worthington, McNab.

MAN. UTD (1) 2 (Ritchie, McIlroy)
TOTTENHAM (0) 0 52,026
Man. U: Bailey; Greenhoff (B), Houston (Paterson), McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Ritchie, Macari, Thomas.
Tottenham: Kendall; McAllister, Gorman, Holmes (Villa), Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles, Lee, Hoddle, Taylor.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3) 7 (Proctor, Burns 4, Armstrong, Cochrane)
CHELSEA (1) 2 (Osgood, Bumstead) 15,107
Middlesbrough: Stewart; Craggs, McAndrew, Mahoney, Boam, Ramage, Cochrane, Proctor, Burns, Cummins, Armstrong.
Chelsea: Iles; Wilkins (G), Stride, Bumstead,



Frankie Gray starred for Leeds United against Everton.

Wicks, Harris, Britton, Langley, Osgood (Walker), Aylott, Stanley.

NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 (Gemmill) 25,224
BIRMINGHAM (0) 0
Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Needham, Lloyd, Bowyer, Gemmill, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.
Birmingham: Montgomery; Calderwood, Dennis, Rioch, Gallagher, Page, Dillon, Francis, Givens, Buckley (Ainscow), Barrowclough.

Q.P.R. (0) 2 (Hamilton 2)
MAN. CITY (0) 1 (Channon) 12,902
Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, Howe, Roeder, Shanks, Francis (Hamilton), Eastoe, Bowles, Harkouk.
Man. C: Corrigan; Futcher (P), Donachie, Booth, Watson, Power, Channon, Owen, Deyna (Futcher, R.), Hartford, Barnes.

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 4 (Waldron, Hebbard, Boyer, Baker)
COVENTRY (0) 0 19,102
Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach, Williams (Sealy), Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hebbard, Holmes, Baker.
Coventry: Sealey; Coop, McDonald, Blair, Holton, Ferguson, Hunt, Wallace (Gillespie), Thompson, Powell, Hutchison.

WOLVES (0) 0
W.B.A. (1) 3 (Brown, A. 2, Brown, T.) 29,117
Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Hazell, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Bell, Rafferty, Carr.
W.B.A.: Godden; Bateson, Statham, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Robson, Cantello, Regis, Brown (A), Cunningham.

SECOND DIVISION

BRIGHTON (2) 3 (Horton pen., Rollings, Sayer)
LUTON (0) 1 (Moss) 16,252
Brighton: Moseley; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan, Ward, Poskett (Clark), Sayer, O'Sullivan.
Luton: Findlay; Price, Aizlewood, Carr, Turner, Donaghy, West, Fuccillo, Ingram (Stein), Hatton, Moss.

BURNLEY (1) 2 (Ingham 2)
BRISTOL R (0) 0 9,119
Burnley: Stevenson; Arins, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Hall, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, James.
Bristol R: Thomas; Day, Aitken (Mabutt), Harding, Taylor, Prince, Potts, Williams, Stanforth, Randall, Dennehy.

C. PALACE (2) 3 (Cannon, Swindlehurst, Elwiss)
LEICESTER (0) 1 (May) 17,330
Palace: Burridge; Fenwick, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Elwiss, Walsh.
Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Rofe, Williams, May, Goodwin, Weller, Ridley, Christie, Davies, Henderson.

FULHAM (1) 1 (Guthrie)
NEWCASTLE (2) 3 (Shoulder, Connolly, Withe) 8,575
Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Lock, Money, Beck, Davies, Bullivant, Guthrie, Evanson (Margerison), Greenaway.
Newcastle: Hardwick; Brownlie, Mitchell, Cassidy, Bird, Blackley (Barton), Shoulder, Martin, Withe, Hibbitt, Connolly.

MILLWALL (0) 1 (Seasman)
BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Hird) 6,093
Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson, Gregory, Chambers (Mehmet), Kitchener, Blyth, Towner, Seasman, Mitchell, Walker, Chatterton.
Blackburn: Butcher; Hird, Bailey, Round, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherton, Radford, Craig, Parkes, Birchenall.

OLDHAM 0
ORIENT 0 5,169
Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Valentine, Steel (Halom), Young, Chapman, Gardner.
Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Gray, Kitchen, Hughton (Banjo), Moores, Mayo, Chiedoie, Coates.

PRESTON (0) 1 (Baxter)
NOTTS CO (1) 1 (Vinter) 10,728
Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Potts, Bruce.
Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Benjamin, Stubbs, Mann, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Hunt, Vinter.

SHEFF. UTD. (2) 2 (Anderson, Matthews)
CARDIFF (0) 1 (Evans pen.) 11,913
 Sheff. U: Conroy, Franks, Garner, Calvert, Matthews, Kenworthy, Anderson, Varadi, Finnieston (Harwood), Sabella, Hamson.
 Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Thomas, Campbell, Pontin, Larmour, Buchanan, Pethard, Evans, Stevens, Micallef.

STOKE (1) 3 (Crooks 2, Roberts o.g.)
WREXHAM (0) 0
 Stoke: Fox; Marsh, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle (Dodd), McGroarty, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.
 Wrexham: Davies; Cegielski, Jones, Davis, Roberts, Evans, Shinton, Sutton, Lyons, Dwyer (Griffiths), Hill.

SUNDERLAND (0) 0
CAMBRIDGE (1) 2 (Christie 2) 20,841
 Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Chisholm (Greenwood), Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Rostrom, Entwistle, Lee, Rowell.
 Cambridge: Webster; Graham, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Leach, Christie, Spriggs, Cozens, Finney, Biley.

WEST HAM (1) 2 (Robson, Cross)
CHARLTON (0) 0 23,833
 West Ham: Day; Lampard, Brush, Holland (Pike), Taylor (T), McDowell, Curbishley, Devonshire, Cross, Taylor (A), Robson.
 Charlton: Wood; Shaw, Campbell, Gritt, Shipperley, Berry, Brisley, Robinson (Powell), Flanagan, Madden, Peacock.

THIRD DIVISION

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Megson)
CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Kowalski) 6,740
 Plymouth: Burns; Bason, McNeill, Silkman, Foster, Clarke, Megson, Fear, Binney, Perrin (Ford), Chapman.
 Chesterfield: Letheran; Hunter, Burton, Flavell, Cottam, Propphet, Tarrt, Kowalski, Fern (Walker), Salmons, Cammack.

FOURTH DIVISION

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Carroll)
WIGAN (2) 2 (Moore, Purdie) 2,437
 Halifax: Leonard; Hutt, Loska, Smith, Sidebottom, Dunleavy, Nixon, Mountford, Campbell (Carroll), Kennedy, Johnson.
 Wigan: Grew; Smart, Hinnigan, Gore, Davids, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Moore, Brownbill, Purdie.

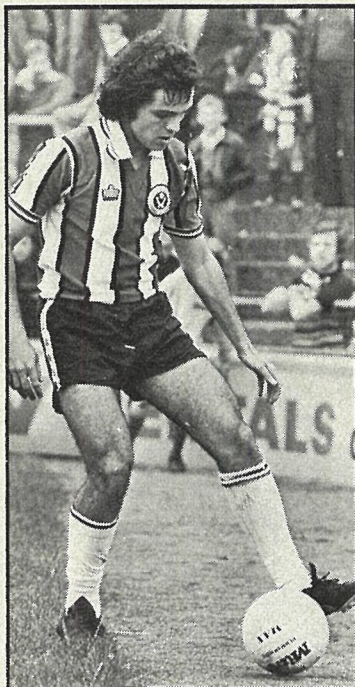
SCUNTHORPE (1) 4 (Kilmore 2, Pilling, Earl)
HEREFORD (0) 2 (Jones, Bailey) 1,683
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Earl, Keeley, Kavanagh.
 Hereford: Hughes; Bailey, Burrows, Cornes, Layton, Emery, Holmes (W), Feeley, Jones, Holmes (K), Gould.

F.A. CUP (Second Round)

AP LEAMINGTON (0) 0
TORQUAY (1) 1 (Twitchin) 2,200
 Torquay: Turner; Darke, Dunne, Davies, Green, Parsons, Wilson, Lawrence, Cooper, Murphy, Twitchin.

BARKING (0) 1 (Ashford)
ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Dungworth, Shanahan) 1,897
 Aldershot: Johnson; Howitt, Wooler, Dixon, Youlden, Jopling, Crosby, Brodie, Shanahan, Dungworth, McGregor (Longhorn).

BARNLEY (1) 1 (Clarke)
ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Crawford) 15,491
 Barnley: Springett; Collins, Chambers,



Argentinian Alex Sabella was in fine form for Sheffield United v. Cardiff.

Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Clarke, Riley, Millar, Bell.
 Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancilffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Crawford, Smith.

BURY (1) 3 (Lugg, Gregory 2)
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Kellow) 6,519
 Bury: Forrest; Ritson, Kennedy, Lugg, Tucker, Bailey, Stanton, Wilson, Beamish, Gregory, Taylor.
 Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Pashley, Thompson, Malone, Suddaby, Jones, Kellow, Spence, McEwan, Ronson (Davidson).

CARLISLE (0) 3 (Lumby, McCartney pen., Kemp)
HULL (0) 0 5,335
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, MacDonald, Tait, Parker, McVities, Bonnyman, Kemp, Ludlam, Lumby.
 Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, DeVries, Horswill, Croft, Haigh, Galvin, Hood, Edwards, Bannister, Farley.

CREWE (0) 0
HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 (Crumplin) 2,626
 Crewe: Rafferty; Wilkinson, Dulson, Bevan, Bowles, Roberts, Davies, Purdie, Coyne, Wilshaw (Nelson), Robertson.
 Hartlepool: Richardson; Smith, Gorry, Lawrence, Brooks, Ayre, Linacre, Goldthorpe, Crumplin, Newton, Loadwick.

DARLINGTON (0) 2 (Craig, Ferguson)
CHESTER (0) 1 (Mellor) 2,491
 Darlington: Burleigh; Nattress, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Stone, Probert, Walsh, Ferguson, Seal, Wann.
 Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Raynor, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Delgado (Walker), Livermore, Howat, Mellor, Phillips.

DONCASTER (0) 0
SHREWSBURY (0) 3 (Chapman, Maguire 2) 3,720
 Doncaster: Peacock; Reed, Snodin, Cork,

Bradley, Olney, Laidlaw, Meagan (Owen), French, Lewis, Bentley.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle; King, Larkin, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Chapman, Tong, Lindsay, Biggins, Maguire.

DROYLSDEN (0) 0
ALTRINCHAM (1) 2 (Johnson, Brooke) 2,875

LEATHERHEAD (0) 1 (Kelly)
COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Gough) 2,550
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Hodge, Wignall, Dowman, Foley, Gough, Dyer, Wright, Allinson.

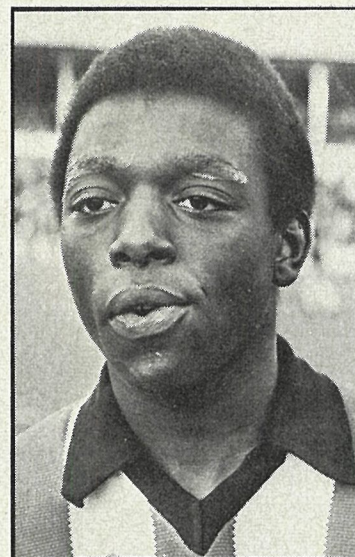
MAIDSTONE (1) 1 (Hill)
EXETER (0) 0 3,686
 Exeter: O'Keefe; Hore (Templeman), Mitchell, Forbes, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Pearson, Bowker, Delve, Hatch.

NEWPORT 0
WORCESTER 0 7,196
 Newport: Plumley; Walden, Byrne, Davies, Bruton, Thompson, Warriner, Lowndes, Bailey (Oakes), Goddard, Woods.

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
READING (1) 1 (Alexander) 17,195
 Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Viney, Denyer, Foster, Davey, Hemmerman, Lathan, Garwood (Wilson), Barnard, Pullar.
 Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Alexander (Hetzke), Earles, Kearney, Sanchez, Lewis.

STOCKPORT (3) 4 (Fogarty, Lee, Bradd, Park)
BRADFORD (1) 2 (Cooke, Dolan) 5,739
 Stockport: Rogan; Smith, Rutter, Thompson, Park, Fogarty, Henson, Armstrong, Bradd, Lee, Summerbee.
 Bradford: Downsborough; Podd, Watson, Reaney, Middleton, Wood, Bates, Dolan, Cooke, McNiven, Hutchins.

SWANSEA (1) 2 (Curtis 2)
WOKING (0) 2 (Love, Cottrell) 7,172
 Swansea: Crudgington; Evans, Smith, Phillips, Stevenson, Charles, Boersma (Bartley), James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.



Garth Crooks netted twice for high riding Stoke in their 3-0 victory over Wrexham.

SWINDON (0) 3 (Bates, Carter, Gilchrist)
ENFIELD (0) 0 5,681
 Swindon: Ogden; McLaughlin, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Gilchrist, Bates, Kamara.

TRANMERE (1) 1 (Moore)
SHEFF. WED (0) 1 (Leman) 4,250

Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Cahill, Evans, O'Neil, Bramhall, Moore, Pellow, McAuley.
 Sheff. W: Turner; Blackhall, Rushbury, Smith, Pickering, Johnson, Wylde, Lowey, Leman, Porterfield, Hornsby.

WATFORD (0) 1 (Jenkins)
SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Parker) 13,377
 Watford: Sherwood; Stirr, Pritchett, Train, How, Garner, Pollard, Blissett (Mayes), Jenkins, Joslyn, Downes.
 Southend: Cawston; Stead, Walker, Laverick, Hadley, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Dudley, Polycarpou.

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Denny)
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (MacDougall) 3,308
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Haverson, Galliers, Galvin, Donaldson, Leslie, Briley, Denny, Cork, Parsons.
 Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Miller, Impey, Brown (R), Barton, Borthwick, MacDougall, Butler, Showers, Lennard.

YORK (2) 3 (Faulkner, Staniforth 2)
SCARBOROUGH (0) 0 7,876
 York: Brown; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Wellings, McDonald, Staniforth.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

ABERDEEN (0) 1 (McMaster)
ST. MIRREN (1) 1 (Stack) 11,700
 Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McLelland, McMaster, Rougvie, Miller, Strachan, Archibald, Harper, Sullivan, Scanlon (Fleming).
 St. Mirren: Thomson; Beckett, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, McGarvey (Hyslop), Abercrombie.

CELTIC (1) 1 (Lynch pen.)
DUNDEE UTD. (0) 1 (Narey) 21,000
 Celtic: Baines; Filippi, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Edvaldsson, Conn, MacLeod, McAdam (Lennox), Glavin, Doyle.
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Dods (Phillip), Addison, Holt, Payne, Kirkwood.

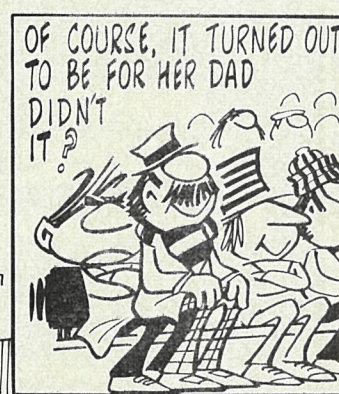
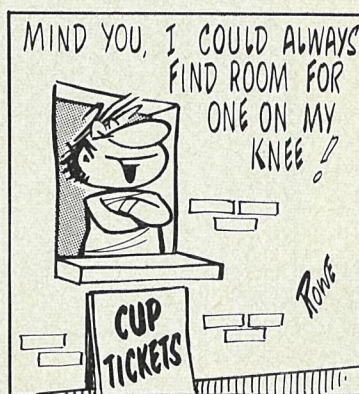
HIBS 0
PARTICK 0 6,000
 Hibs: McDonald; Duncan, Kilgour, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara (Higgins), Smith, MacLeod (Murray), Refvik, Callachan, Hutchinson.
 Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Anderson, McAdam, Marr, Houston, Gibson (Melrose), O'Hara, Somner (Doyle), Park.

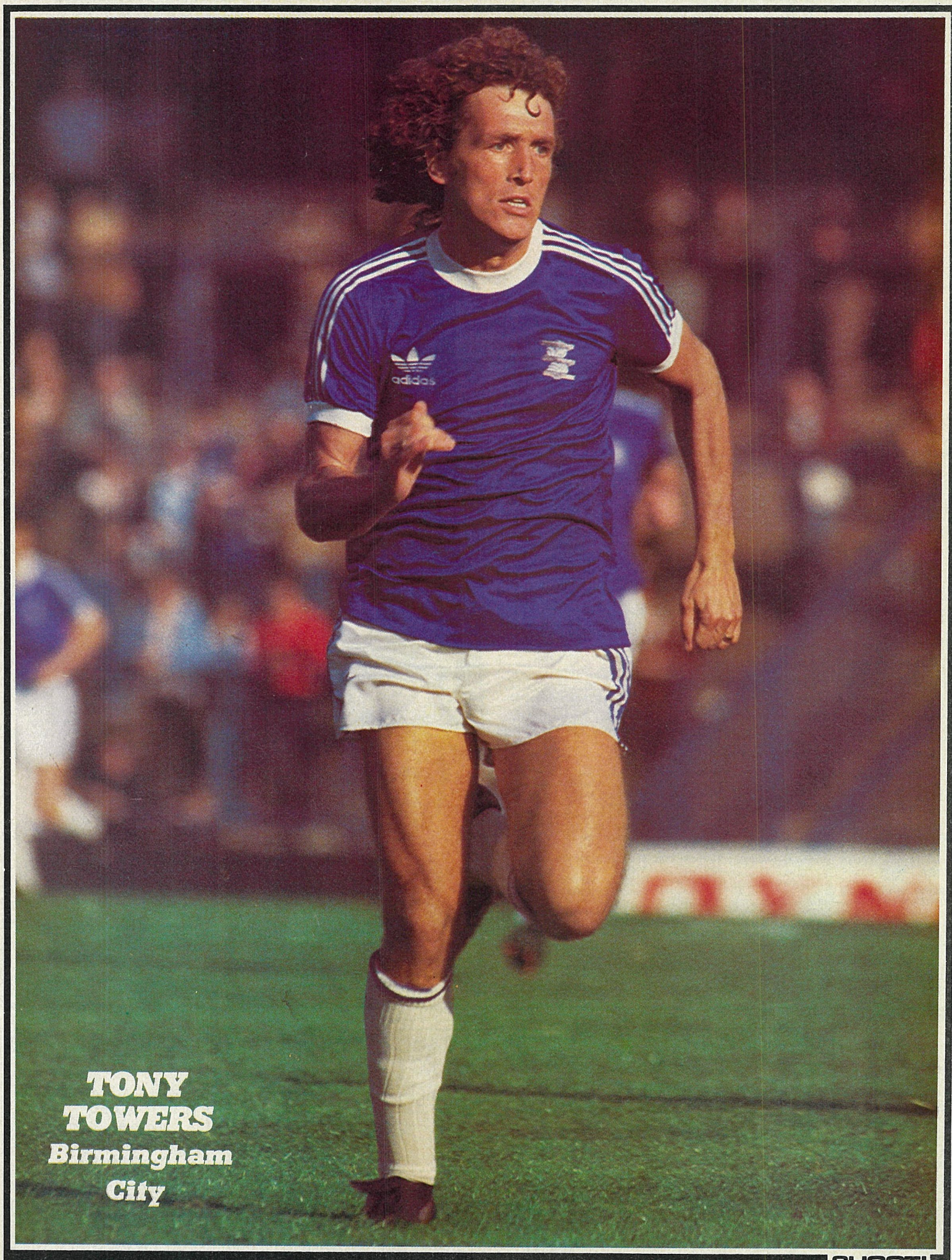
MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Pettigrew)
MORTON (0) 1 (Ritchie pen.) 5,347
 Motherwell; Rennie; Boyd, Wark, Millar, McLeod, Stevens, Marinello, Pettigrew, Larnach, (Lindsay), Clinging, Wilson (Capaldi).
 Morton: Bric; Hayes, Holmes, McLaren, Orr, Rooney, Hutchinson, Miller, Thomson, Scott, Ritchie.

RANGERS (3) 5 (Johnstone 4, Watson)
HEARTS (1) 3 (Busby 2, Bannon) 18,000
 Rangers: McCloy; Miller, Dawson, Jardine, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Johnstone, Watson, Cooper (Smith).
 Hearts: Dunlop; Kidd, Brown, Jeffries, Liddell, Fraser, Gibson, Bannon, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

NOBBY

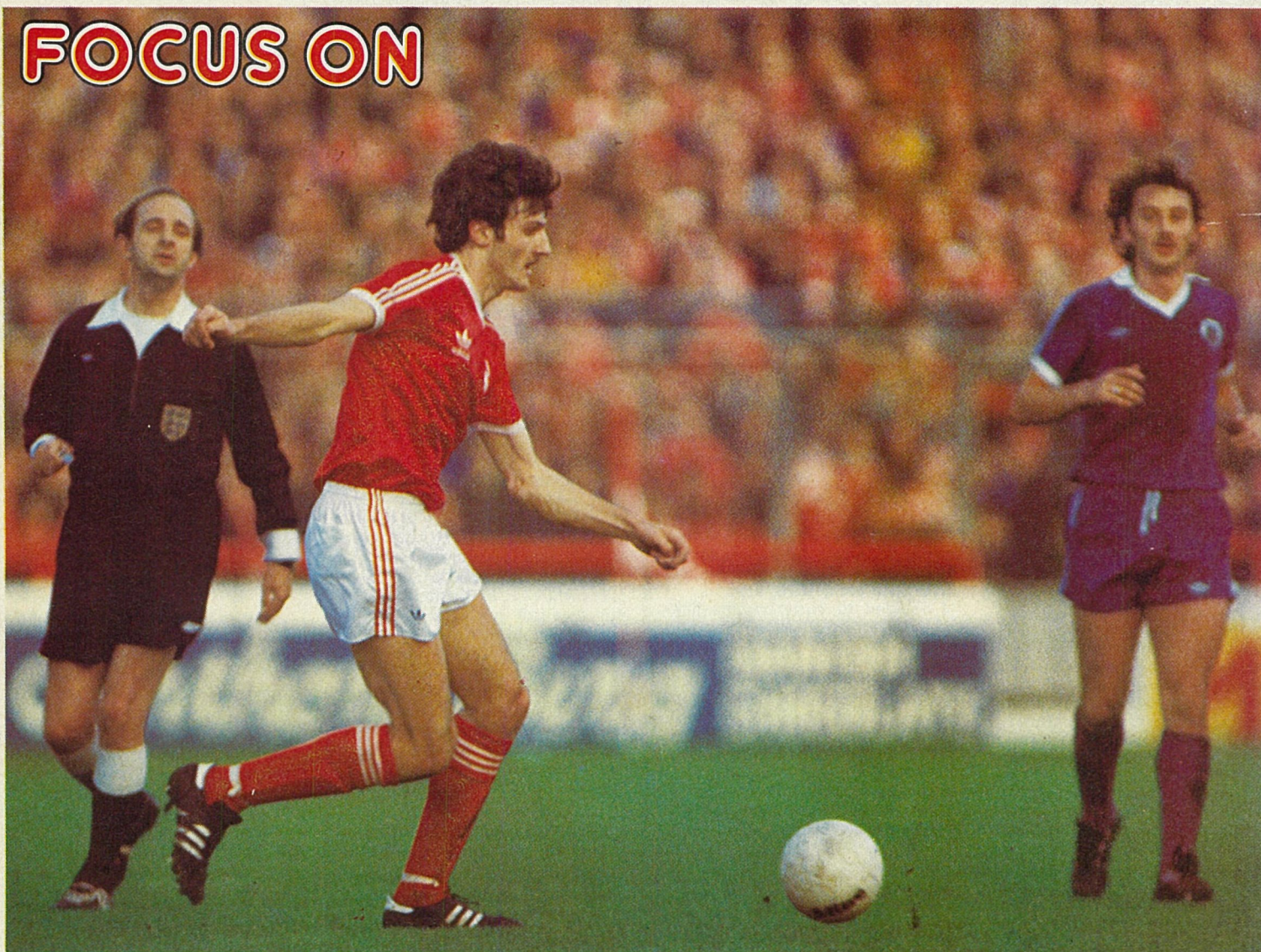




**TONY
TOWERS**
Birmingham
City

SHOOT!

FOCUS ON



GARRY BIRTLES

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

FULL NAME: Garry Birtles
BIRTHPLACE: Nottingham
BIRTHDATE: 27th June, 1956
HEIGHT: 6ft 1in
WEIGHT: 11st 6lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: Yes to Sandra
CHILDREN: No
CAR: Capri 2000
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Former Manchester United star, George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Manchester United
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Bristol City defender, Norman Hunter
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Beating Liverpool in the first-leg of this season's European Cup
BIGGEST THRILL: Being picked for my First Division debut
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Being turned down by Aston Villa at the age of 15

BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Austria
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Squash and good friends
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Losing and false people
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Monty Python's Flying Circus and any programme which stars Leonard Rossiter
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Alice Cooper, David Bowie and Bryan Ferry
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood and Susan George
BEST FRIEND: Digby, my Pyrenean Mountain Dog
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My wife and family, Geoff Barrowcliff and Long Eaton Rovers
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: When I'm not scoring goals
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None yet

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy and honest in everything I do
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To keep scoring goals for Nottingham Forest
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A floor layer, my profession before I joined Forest
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Pop star Alice Cooper or tennis player Jimmy Connors

Garry Birtles

SHOOT!

GOAL~LINES

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When writing to us please mention the two features you
liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

*This week's Star Letter comes from
Richard Evans of Wrexham, who
wins our Special Prize of £3. He
writes:*

SHAMEFUL



THE example set by the Argentinian fans during the World Cup does not seem to have impressed the Home supporters. A feature of the World Cup was the sporting way the fans out there sang their own National Anthem and were silent during the opposition's, applauding at the end.

Sadly, a feature of our own game is the way so-called football lovers constantly abuse "God Save The Queen" and other anthems.

A friend told me the England fans at Wembley disgraced themselves at the Czechoslovakia game by booing and hissing through both anthems.

I was at the Wales/Turkey match and the home supporters showed total disrespect for the Turkish anthem, while the Turkish contingent were silent throughout "Land of my Fathers".

Why do British fans behave in such a shameful way? What is the purpose of their actions?

● We on SHOOT have constantly criticised fans for a lack of respect of National Anthems. And it's not a minority, either. In some ways, it would seem our fans are incurable. They supposedly support their country, yet abuse the National Anthem. A weird kind of patriotism!

Scrapheap To Stardom

I STILL believe nothing can compensate for the development of home-grown talent, despite the apparent success of expensive foreign imports by League clubs.

If scouting and coaching was improved in Britain I'm convinced many more local lads would make good.

The talent is there, but it needs unearthing. Brendan Batson was cast as a failure when he played for Arsenal. He left Highbury for Cambridge, played well there, and is now a key defender in West Bromwich Albion's line-up.

Albion's manager Ron Atkinson rescued Batson from the scrapheap and turned him into a star. I wonder how many other unfortunates slip into obscurity, while clubs prefer to buy foreign?

SID GITTENS,
BIRMINGHAM.

● The lack of available top class players in this country, and inflated transfer fees, have forced some clubs to turn to more reasonably priced foreigners.

All Change

I JUST happened to be delving through some old issues of SHOOT and I came across the November 20th, 1976, edition.

I decided to compare the line-ups with an up-to-date issue and was amazed to see how the teams had changed.

Five Division One teams had just one survivor, while the most stable side was Ipswich Town with nine men still in the team. Bristol City and Burnley had eight. It's interesting that Ipswich and Bristol City also have two of the longest-serving managers around in Bobby Robson and Alan Dicks.

STEVE GRIFFIN,
LONDON.

● If you looked at the line-ups for last August you'd also see many changes in some clubs — especially Derby!

No Ethics?

DERBY County's board of directors make me weep. They allowed their manager Tommy Docherty to negotiate the transfer of Charlie George to Nottingham Forest — and then they blocked the move because they thought Charlie would be a counter-attraction at nearby Forest.

Has football no ethics?

I sometimes wonder where the game is going when amateur directors can hold the professional game in such a vice-like grip.

It's about time the players' union, the P.F.A., and the Football League drew-up a code of conduct to prevent shabby things like this happening.

TOBY GILES,
ASHFORD, KENT.

● This was really the result of a long-standing feud between the two clubs. A few years ago Forest blocked the move of Ian Storey-Moore to Derby after the player had been paraded around the Baseball Ground by their then manager Brian Clough... who now, by sheer coincidence, just happens to be boss at Forest. It's a pity that Charlie George, who apparently would have liked to have gone to Forest, has been made to suffer. No credit to both clubs on this issue.

I KNOW from reading your letters that many of you would like to know a little more about my routine... my day-to-day activities, and this week I'm going to give you some details of a fairly typical Ray Wilkins week.

Mind you, it's difficult to say exactly what "typical" is, because training is rarely the same two weeks in succession and naturally my off-field promotions also differ.

However, I'm up at around eight every morning, unless I run my wife Jackie to work. Work for her has been secretary to former managers Eddie McCreadie and Ken Shellito and if I take her to Stamford Bridge we have to leave by eight because of the traffic.

In fact, Jackie handed in her notice just before Christmas simply because it was all getting too much for her. The journey from our home in Sutton to Chelsea is not an easy one and leaving at eight, returning at six, was becoming a strain. I don't know if she'll be a "lady of leisure" for long, perhaps she'll take a local job which is less demanding.

I don't have breakfast, just a cup of tea while I read the papers. Occasionally I call in at Ray Lewington's on the way to our training ground by the Thames at Hampton Court. We have to be there by about 10-10.15 p.m. We used to be fined if we were late and I had to pay up a few times when my car broke down.

Clive Walker and Tommy Langley have the longest journeys, they live in Basingstoke, but most of the lads



**RAY
WILKINS**
Writes for you

'A WEEK



live around the Epsom area which isn't too far away.

On Mondays, we usually have a chat about Saturday's game. The boss gives his views and the players are invited to speak up, too. I say what I feel, not because I'm captain but because I always have. This can be a tricky situation as players are, understandably, reluctant to criticise each other, but constructive criticism should not upset anyone.

Then, we'll play a game of keep-ball, possession football, followed by a match against the youth team who, hasten to add, beat us once in a blue moon!

If there is no mid-week game, Tuesday is our "hard" day, the day we really graft. We begin by lapping the field working up to sprints of half-laps and full-laps. The lap is

"I call in on Ray Lewington on the way to training"



"We play against the youngsters and try out different formations and tactics. Our Champion sprinter is Tommy Langley (above)"

about 400 metres and we have to do six, all under 60 seconds. Those of you who like athletics will know how difficult this is.

Our Champion is Tommy Langley, who did his sixth 400 metres in 55 seconds the other week, which is very good by any standards.

We'll finish with some relays and then relax with a five-a-side game.

Wednesday is our day off. I like to play golf, with Ian Britton, Ian's father-in-law and another friend. We haven't played much in recent weeks because of Christmas shopping and other commitments, though. I believe our young goal-

Jackie and I also do stomach exercises every morning to keep in trim.

I have just one meal a day, in the evening. I have to be very careful what I eat — I only have to LOOK at a loaf of bread and I put on weight! I have no lunch, just a cup of tea; by about four I'm starving, but I've learned to live with this now.

I let myself go at weekends and love my Sunday morning fry-up breakfast.

During the afternoon I'm invariably working on some promotion or other. I am associated with Jack Brabham's garage of Worcester Park, while I'm also promoting a Work Horse exerciser at the moment as well as my Captain's Ball. I may be at a photo session somewhere . . . there is rarely a week when I'm not busy.

Jackie arrives home just before six and I help he. . . to cook dinner — I stay out of the kitchen! Seriously, I sometimes prepare the meal if I can — hamburgers are my speciality!

During the evening we prefer to stay in, especially as we now have our own house. If we do go out, it will be to a local restaurant for a quiet meal.

Stay-at-home

We don't socialise too much with the other players, but our families aren't too far away and of course we see them regularly.

We used to go out more before we were married, but now it's nicer to stay at home and relax.

Some players thrive on an active life, however. I'm not saying you should be out amongst the bright lights every night, just that it's hard to lay down any strict set of rules. Being sensible is the most important factor.

After home games, Jackie and I always go out for a meal locally but find I sleep badly on Saturday nights. It takes me a long time to unwind after a match, especially recently when things haven't gone too well for Chelsea.

We had a quiet Christmas — on Christmas Day afternoon the players left for a hotel near Southampton to prepare for the Boxing Day game.

I'd be lying if I said we all liked this, but from a footballing point of view it was best. I don't enjoy missing Christmas evening, but it's part of the job and that's that.

This Saturday (January 13th) we're at home to Coventry City, one of the most attacking and attractive sides in division One.

Join me again in a fortnight . . .

Raymond

IN MY LIFE'



keeper Bob Iles is the best golfer at the club, with a handicap of 10. I reckon I'd be about 16 to 18.

We play a match on Thursdays, again against the youngsters. The boss, Frank Upton and Ron Suart use such games to try out different formations and tactics and they're taken seriously. I remember being man-marked by a lad called Gary Chivers, who is a specialist close-marker. I was very frustrated as I hardly had a kick all morning, but we like to work on situations which will arise in the League and close marking is certainly one of them.

Every Friday we're at Stamford Bridge and this is a "light" day. It's senseless flogging ourselves the day before a match, so we do a few sprints and play a five-a-side or, perhaps, one- or two-touch football.

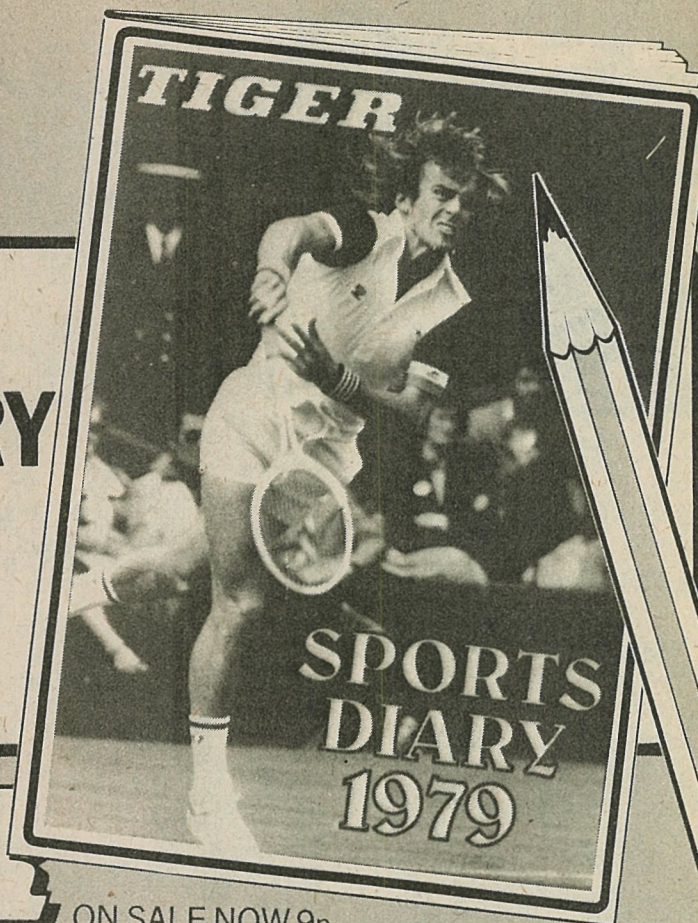
Occasionally I stay behind for extra training . . . shooting usually.

Make a note!

and start collecting

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'THE MIRTH MERCHANTS'

If a funny thing happened to a player on his way to the game ... you can bet one of football's jokers had something to do with it.

I'm talking about the laugh-a-minute men who bring a smile to the face of a sport which can sometimes get just too serious. Every club in the land has its characters who can make 'em laugh.

At Parkhead over the years we have had more than our fair share of mirth merchants ... and perhaps the clown prince of them all was Tommy Gemmell, the Lisbon Lion who is now manager of Dundee.

Big Tam was comic-in-chief of a Celtic Park laugh-in which also starred Bertie Auld, Bobby Lennox, Jimmy Johnstone and Willie O'Neill on the bill.

Indeed the last three of that list were known as the Marx Brothers back in the Sixties and their dressing-room antics were as much a vital part of the European success as their undoubted skills.

In fact you will find it is only good players who have the confidence to be the jokers in the pack at a football club. There aren't many young guys who have the ability or the patter to stand gag for gag with the likes of big Tam Gemmell.

I quite fancy myself as a bit of a patter merchant now, but I wouldn't dare speak up back in my early days at Parkhead.

And if you want a sample of the McGrain sense of humour perhaps I could relate some of the gags I cracked at a big football writers' dinner in Glasgow a couple of years back when I won their Player of the Year award.

Dead chuffed with my success I was convinced that if I got any more popular I would have to make the number on my shorts ex-directory!

Tartan Talk **DANNY McGRAIN**



Or, playing on the ridiculous theory that most football players are supposed to be dead thick, I pulled out my notes at the beginning of my speech and began: "Page one ... well, that's what it says here."

And at that time Kenny Dalglish

was still with Celtic and doing nationwide television adverts for a carpet company called D.C.S. — Dalglish can't shoot, I suggested.

OK, so Tartan Talk is no rival to the Morecambe and Wise show yet, but if you fancy a football team of robots, tune into Doctor

Who and support the colours of Dalek United.

The funny men of football are legend of course, and everyone has heard of at least some of the antics of the likes of former Old Firm pair Dixie Deans and George McLean.

Big George alias Dandy or Mince, was in particular a guy who would do anything for a laugh.

But one man who is one of the game's little-known jokers wild is Celtic masseur Jimmy Steele who is practical joke daft.

One of his classics was in Madrid in the second-leg of our rather ugly European Cup Semi-Final against Atletico Madrid a few years ago.

If you remember, Atletico were outrageous in the first game at Parkhead and nearly caused a riot with their disgraceful behaviour.

It all looked a bit ominous for the trip to Spain and there were all sorts of threats in the air. So much so that we were given an armed guard of Spanish soldiers.

These guys were toting machine guns which would have put the fear of death into John Wayne ... so it didn't go down over-well when Steeley burst into our room wearing one of these grotesque masks and waving a toy gun.

Orbit

We all hit the deck and the security man nearly put our Jim into orbit!

But Jim is a great laugh and his antics are just the job to take the tension out of the air sometimes ... although I am sure he would agree that there is a time and place for everything!

The football world is short of characters, although in Scottish teams I have played in Tommy Hutchison, John Blackley, Derek Johnstone and Alan Rough have always kept things going with a swing.

Big Roughy, in particular, has a real dry sense of humour.

As I have said already, it is all about confidence and you can't be a comic if you are a bad player. Footballers like a laugh ... and that brings me to my final point.

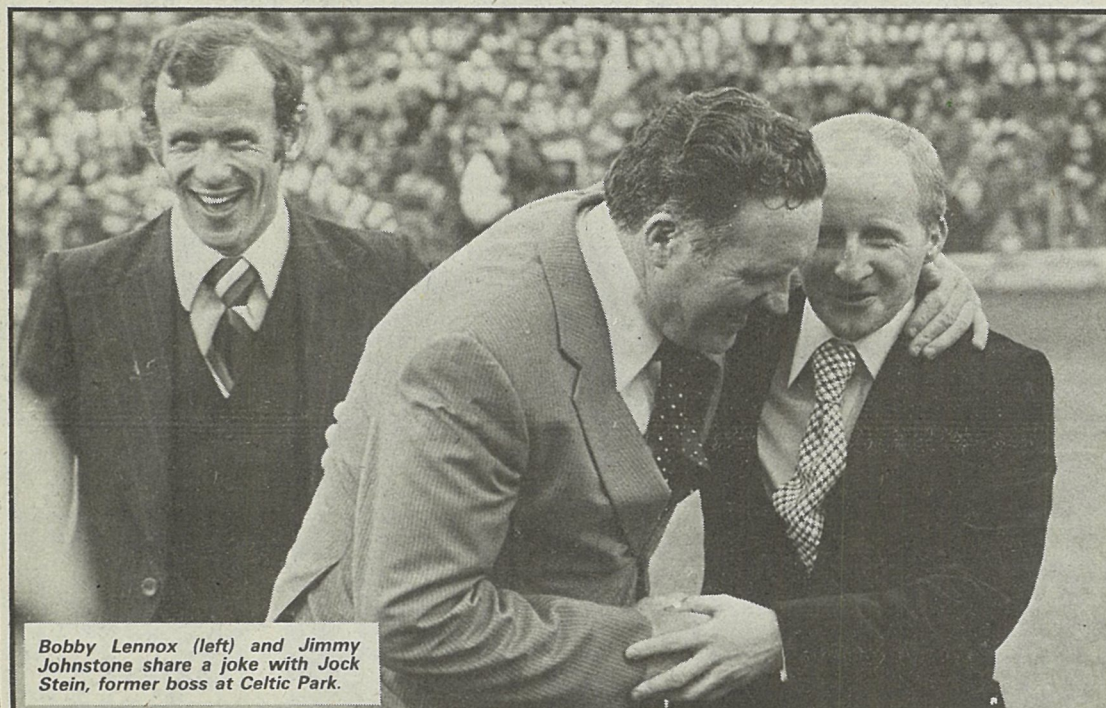
I notice that after they beat Scotland, the All-Blacks rugby team had a big shindig in an Edinburgh hotel and their riotous party was treated as one big joke.

Good luck to them ... but I wonder what the reaction would have been had it been the Scottish international football team.

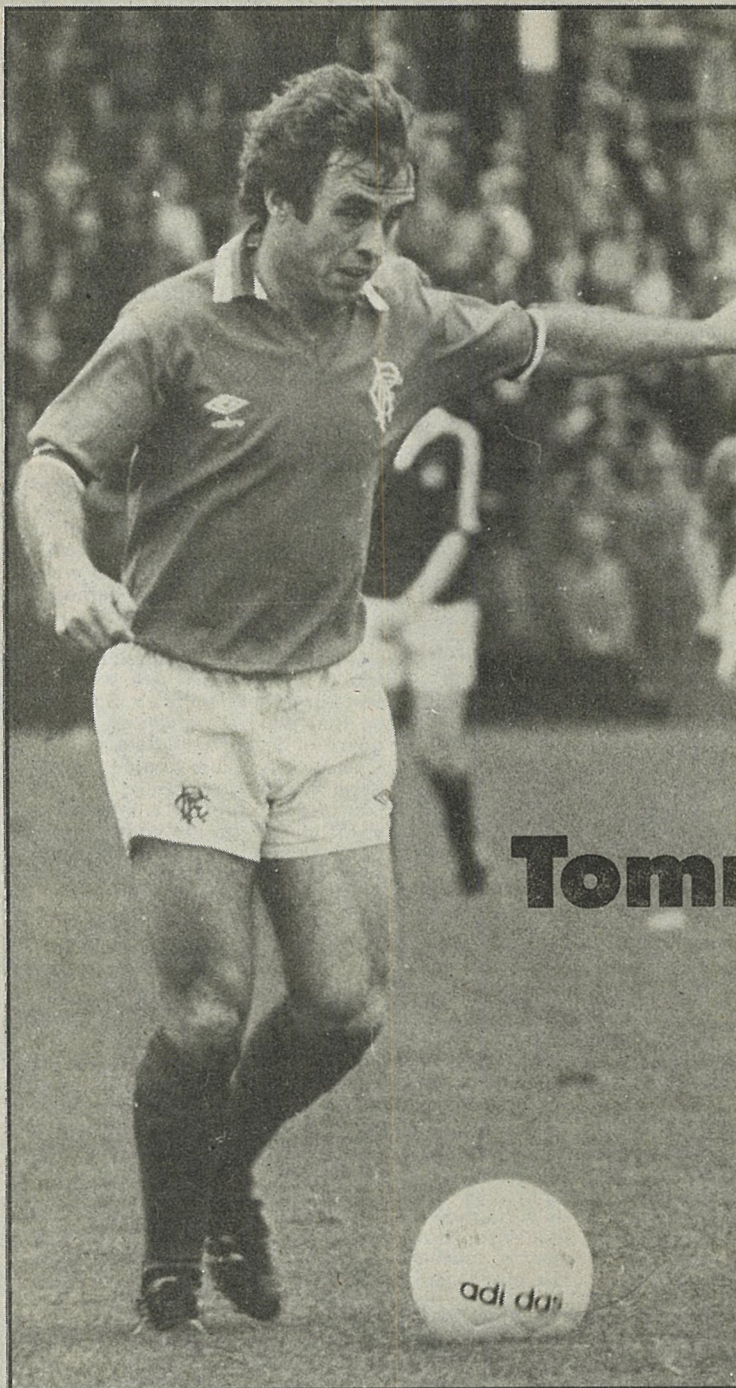
See you in two weeks ...

Danny McGrain

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' DEREK JOHNSTONE



Bobby Lennox (left) and Jimmy Johnstone share a joke with Jock Stein, former boss at Celtic Park.



has hardly suffered this season is Tommy McLean, the former right-winger who is now doing such a marvellous job in a roving commission in midfield.

McLean has class, skill and a delicate touch that can prise open iron-hard defences. McLean, a wonderfully gifted player, flits in and out of play, directing operations, encouraging his team-mates and enticing rearguards to make mistakes.

He is an artist, a master of the dead-ball. McLean seems to have been on the Scottish scene for an eternity, but you can put that down to the fact he was winning a League Championship medal back in 1965 with Kilmarnock while he was a teenager.

McLean is an extraordinary player, a gifted individual. He made his debut for Kilmarnock in unusual circumstances. In fact, McLean was on the verge of signing for Rangers before he went to Rugby Park.

He recalls: "Willie Waddell was manager of Kilmarnock at the time while Scott Symon was the Ibrox boss. I had the opportunity to go to both clubs, but in the end Mr. Waddell persuaded me my immediate future lay with his club. "It later cost him £60,000 to take

an hour before the kick-off. I am sure Mr. Waddell deliberately didn't tell me about my selection in case I got too nervous!"

It turned out to be a memorable occasion for the young McLean and every Kilmarnock fan. There was a hush around the ground as the West Germans scored in the first minute to make it 4-0 on aggregate.

Then came one of the most remarkable comebacks in the history of any European competition. Kilmarnock rattled five goals past the West German 'keeper and left their shell-shocked opponents reeling out of the competition.

"A great night," says McLean, knowing there could be more European glory in the offing this season with Rangers in the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup.

No team looks forward to meeting the Scottish Champions. Their feat in removing both Italy and Holland's pride has reverberated round Europe. The names of Derek Johnstone, Sandy Jardine, Alex McDonald and Bobby Russell, who scored the winner against PSV, are being mentioned by top coaches, but by the end of the competition Tommy McLean could be top of the pile.

Tommy McLean -the RANGERS ROVER

me to Rangers! That was the right move at the time, just as I believe I was correct in my decision to go to Rugby Park to start my senior career."

McLean came into the top team just before a European match against Eintracht Frankfurt, of West Germany. "We were 3-0 down from the first-leg and I didn't even know I was playing until half

He has achieved the consistency in his play John Greig respects so much. He is a key man, an experienced member of the side and he is more than willing to match his trickery against the best in the world.

Perhaps the European Cup Final would be an ideal setting for him to produce his certain brand of magic this season . . .

CONSISTENCY . . . that's what this game is all about," says Rangers manager John Greig. "There's no point in winning against the top sides and then relaxing and being caught out against other teams.

"I've always admired consistency in a player and a team. I always tried to be so when I was a player. Sure, I had my bad games, but at least I always gave 100-per-cent effort."

Greig has watched this season as the Ibrox outfit have taken on the best in Europe in the shape of Juventus and PSV Eindhoven and beaten them, but he has also seen his side fail to score a goal in two attempts against Partick Thistle, fail to beat Aberdeen on two occasions and lose to Celtic, St. Mirren and Dundee United as well as the Firhill side.

Rangers have been haunted by inconsistency this season, but you can be certain the loyal Greig will eventually solve that particular problem. One player, though, who

Derek Parlane (below, left) shoots past a post during Rangers' European Cup clash against Holland's Champions PSV Eindhoven at Ibrox.



ALAN ROUGH- still Scotland's super-saver

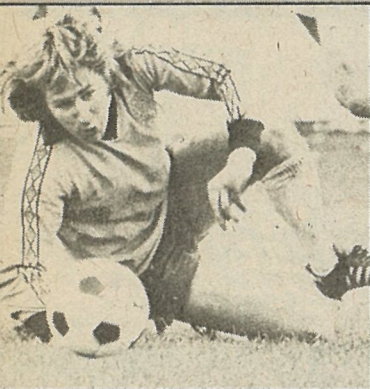
SHORTLY after Partick Thistle's amazing 4-1 League Cup Final triumph over Celtic at Hampden in 1972 a SHOOT reporter asked Ronnie Glavin, now a Parkhead player, which goalkeeper he rated the best in Scotland.

Glavin, who had starred in Thistle's victory over the mighty Celts, had absolutely no hesitation. "It's got to be Alan Rough, hasn't it?" he said.

"I'm not just saying that because he is a team-mate at Firhill. I really rate him the best. He's got everything. All he needs now is a little experience."

Since Glavin lavished that praise on Rough a lot has happened to the Partick Thistle personality. Take a look at the side who blasted the form-book to bits that day at Hampden:— Rough; John Hansen, Alex Forsyth; Glavin, Jackie Campbell, Hugh Strachan; Dennis McQuade, Frank Coulston, Jimmy Bone, Alex Rae and Bobby Lawrie with Johnny Gibson as a substitute. The manager was Davie McParland.

Glavin, moved across to Celtic for £80,000 and was later joined by Bone and Gibson. Bone arrived via Norwich and Sheffield United before eventually going to



Arbroath for only £12,000 after a disappointing spell. He is now with St. Mirren.

Gibson came to Celtic after he had been given a free transfer by Ayr United, but he, too, failed to make any impact and was given another "free" at the end of last season.

Even Davie McParland had a short stint at Parkhead as number two to Jock Stein. Now he is with Hamilton in the First Division. And what about the other players? Strachan, Coulston and Lawrie are out of top class soccer and Hansen has been cruelly unlucky with injury.

Rae, skipper on that unforgettable day at Hampden, is with little part-time Forfar, and McQuade (Hearts) and Bone (St. Mirren) are still in the Premier Division as is Alex Forsyth, currently on loan from Manchester United to Rangers.

That leaves Rough and Campbell still at Firhill and in the goalkeeper's case that is quite astonishing. In the next couple of years he could take over from the likes of Bill Brown (Spurs), Jimmy Cowan (Morton) and Tommy Younger (Hibs) as Scotland's most-capped goalkeeper. He is doing it from the unlikely launching pad of part-time soccer with Thistle.

Rough's career has had incredible ups and downs. He has been praised and criticised. He has been linked with several English clubs, but, at the last moment, the deals have been called-off leaving Rough wondering what he has to do to get that much-wanted transfer.

Was he upset when the proposed move to Middlesbrough fell through last season? "It had reached the stage when I actually expected things to go wrong," says Rough. "Middlesbrough wanted to pay something like £80,000 and then the balance when I had proved myself after a certain number of games."

"That's okay for an untried youngster, but, remember, they were buying an international 'keeper. Surely they must have known my capabilities. Thistle were left with little option but to turn down the move."

The Ayresome Park club eventually went to Kilmarnock for Jim Stewart, paying £110,000. Rough is not envious. He wishes Stewart all the best with Middlesbrough and hopes he is a success. It's a typically refreshing and unselfish action from the goalkeeper.

Returned

Stewart took Rough's international place when Scotland met Norway at Hampden in the European Championship this season, but Rough returned for the tough away game with Portugal.

He has been continually put under the microscope and a lot of critics are only too willing to challenge him when Scotland lose. They soon forget his magic moments.

Rough prevented Scotland from getting a hiding in the World Cup qualifying tie in Czechoslovakia. They lost 2-0, but it would have been much, much more if Rough hadn't given a brilliant display of goalkeeping.

And his tip-over save from that cunning shot by John Toshack, of Wales, in the World Cup-tie at Anfield is rated by the Swansea player/manager as the best he has seen.

So Rough soldiers on. The transfer that looked a certainty in 1972 is now only a slight possibility. Which is good news for Thistle, of course, but it means we may never know just how good Rough could have been at his peak with full-time training.

Soccer is the loser . . .



DEREK O'CONNOR —Hearts' trump card

HEARTS' existence in the Premier Division this season can only be likened to a blind man walking a tightrope . . .

They have hesitated, stumbled, wobbled and even crawled, but, so far, they haven't taken a fall. They have hung on grimly despite criticism from many sources, but it could be that manager Willie Ormond has produced a trump card just when he needs it most.

His trump is Derek O'Connor (above, right), the striker who cost £30,000 from St. Johnstone earlier in the season and had a dream start to his career as a Hearts player, scoring on his debut against Aberdeen at Pittodrie after only THREE minutes!

It was a typical effort from the never-say-die attacker. Dons 'keeper Jim Leighton didn't cover his far post as a cross came over O'Connor came thundering in to crash the ball into the net. Simplicity itself yet so very vital.

That goal inspired Hearts to the shock result of the day as they went on to clinch both much-needed points with a 2-1 victory. And that game was a personal triumph for the likeable Ormond as the winning goal was scored by another of the players he has brought to Edinburgh this season — former Partick Thistle winger Dennis McQuade.

"No goalkeeper on earth could have saved that effort from Dennis," said Ormond. "That is the type of goals he scores regularly, bringing the ball in from the flank and letting go from long range."

McQuade is encouraged to employ this tactic when Hearts take the game to their opponents . . . something they are doing with more conviction and confidence as the season goes on.

His goal that day was watched by thousands of television viewers and it must rate as one of the best of the season. He ran at the

defence, swept inside and, without warning, unleashed a shot of amazing strength and unerring accuracy. There was little Leighton could do as the ball scorched past him into the net via the underside of the crossbar.

Yes, things are certainly looking brighter for Hearts with the arrival of both O'Connor and McQuade. The former St. Johnstone player makes a vast difference to the front-line, which he leads with intelligence and power.

Both were on target again when Hearts defeated their rivals Hibs. McQuade gave them the lead when he picked up a clearance from a corner-kick, found valuable space in a crowded penalty-area and turned swiftly to hammer a shot behind the static Mike MacDonald.

Winner

Hibs roared back, but the points were made safe for the Tynecastle outfit when O'Connor raced through their rearguard on to a long pass, drew the hesitant MacDonald and then lofted the ball neatly over his head for the goal that proved to be the winner.

At the start of the season SHOOT tipped Hearts to be relegated. We said then that we did not think Willie Ormond had enough top class players to keep the club in the Premier Division.

Along with McQuade and O'Connor, the Hearts boss has added John Craig from Partick Thistle, who arrived with McQuade in the swap deal that took the busy Donald Park to Firhill.

It could be these players may provide the difference between Hearts as a Top Ten outfit or Hearts as a First Division side next season. We will have to wait and see, but one thing is abundantly clear . . . Hearts are going to fight every inch of the way to keep up among Scotland's elite.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

1. Former England boss Don Revie (below) was recently banned by the F.A. from English football. For how long?

2. Walsall's new manager Frank Sibley is the club's 15th, 16th or 17th boss since the War?

3. Who is the Manchester United star who recently turned down a move to Middlesbrough?

4. The second-leg of the Super Cup was played at Anfield last month between Liverpool and Anderlecht. (a) What was the result and (b) the aggregate score?

5. Which former Arsenal goalkeeper has been on loan to Watford?

6. An Everton defender promised not to have his haircut until the Goodison Park club lost. Who was he?

7. Kevin Keegan was voted European Footballer of the Year recently. The former Liverpool idol became the first British player to win the award since 1968. Who won the coveted trophy then?

8. Peter Osgood made his comeback with Chelsea on Saturday, December 16th. The London club lost 7-2 at Middlesbrough, but Ossie scored. Was he on target with a header or a shot?

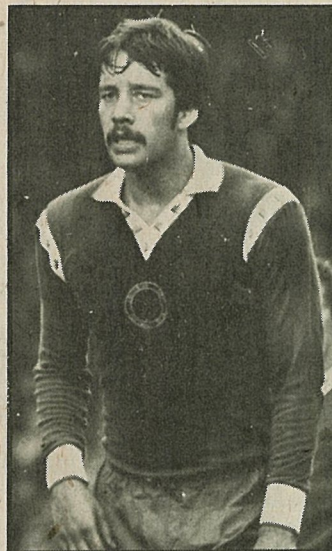
9. Still with Chelsea, did Frank Upton stay caretaker-manager for 24, 48 or 72 hours before Danny Blanchflower took over the reins?

10. Leicester City transferred Steve Sims (right) to Watford for a Third Division record £200,000. It smashed the previous best of £125,000, also paid this season. Who was involved in that record transfer deal?

11. F.A. Youth Cup holders Crystal Palace eased into the Third Round of the competition when they beat which London club 2-0?

12. Gerd Muller recently announced his plans to retire from the Bundesliga at the end of the season. Did 'Der Bomber' score 67, 68 or 69 goals in 60, 61 or 62 full internationals for West Germany?

13. The man who guided Argentina to World Cup victory last June, resigned recently. Who is he?



14. Garry Thompson has made a big impact in the First Division this season. Which club has he been playing for?

15. SHOOT's Derek Johnstone helped Rangers to a 5-3 victory against Hearts on Saturday, December 16th. How many goals did he score?

16. Former Millwall goalkeeper Nicky Johns returned to London recently on a three month loan period. Which club has he joined?

17. Former Motherwell star Peter Marinello is now back in the Football League playing for which Second Division club?

18. On the same day Greenwood left, assistant-manager Dave Merrington and chief scout Dave Blakey at Sunderland moved to behind-the-scenes jobs at Leeds, Ipswich or Manchester City?

19. Derby County boss Tommy Docherty was in the transfer news again last month when he went to Filbert Street and signed Leicester City's experienced defender Dave Webb for around £12,000. He has played for four other League clubs can you name them?

20. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of a First Division captain... TPA CREI (NSALRAE).

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Ten years. 2. 17th. 3. David McCree. 4. (a) 2-1 to Liverpool. (b) Anderlecht won 4-3. 5. Bob Wilson. 6. Colin Todd. 7. George Best. 8. Header. 9. 24. 10. Tony Kellow from Exeter to Blackpool. 11. Fulham. 12. 67 in 62. 13. Cesar Luis Menotti. 14. Coventry City. 15. Four. 16. Charlton. 17. Fulham. 18. Leeds. 19. Orient. 20. Southampton, Chelsea, and Q.P.R. 20. Pat Rice (Arsenal).



GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Tony Towers. (8) Awe. (9) Of. (10) Or. (12) News. (13) Fred. (17) Arc. (18) Asa. (19) Super. (22) Sits. (23) Eric. (25) Lato. (26) Collect. (29) Ewe. (30) Four. (31) All. (32) It. (33) Anon. (34) Little. DOWN:— (1) Tannadice. (2) Owe. (3) Newcastle. (4) To. (5) Off. (6) Eve. (7) So. (11) Racecourse. (14) Rep. (15) Darracott. (16) Astle. (20) Us. (21) Eel. (24) It. (27) Owen. (28) Call. (30) Fit. (31) An. Jumbled Name: TREVOR ROSS.

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Dundee Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Eintracht Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Eintracht Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Bahrain	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Leeds Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Leeds Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Wales Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Saudi Arabia	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Sheffield Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Leicester Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
Coventry Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Men's	Large
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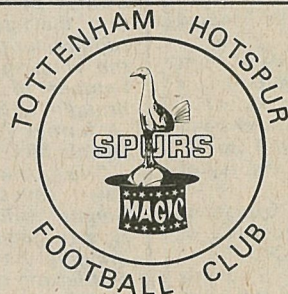
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

compiled by JOHN PYKE

NOT many League clubs insist they were formed later than the date generally given. But as the official history of Wrexham points out, the 'Wrexham' who appeared in 1873 were a selection of local businessmen. It was not until two years later Wrexham proper were formed.

As well as being the home of Wrexham F.C., the town is also the headquarters of the Football Association of Wales; and as a matter of interest the F.A.W. was born on February 2nd, 1876, as the Cambrian Football Association.

Wrexham turned professional in 1912. They were elected to the Third Division (North) in 1921-22, the first season of the new section of the Football League.

Before their election, Wrexham had played in the Birmingham League. Wrexham's career in the Football League until 1958 can be summed up in one word — **CONSISTENT.**

Like a sitting tenant, they did not budge from the Third (North) from the year of its formation in 1921 until its disbandment in 1958.

Then, when the Third and Fourth Divisions were formed, Wrexham were 12th in the Third Division (North) and just qualified for the new Third Division.

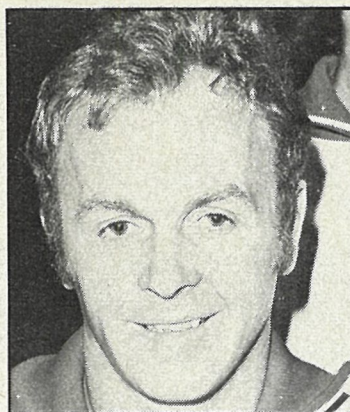
Only the top twelve of the North and South sections went into the Third Division and the bottom 12 into the Fourth.

Two years later, however, Wrexham were relegated and spent two seasons in the Fourth Division. Winning promotion, they again had a short stay of two

seasons before being relegated again.

In their second season back in the Fourth Division, Wrexham finished bottom of the 92 clubs and had to seek re-election. The club won promotion in 1969-70 when they finished third.

This time they stayed firm in the Third Division until the end of the 1977-78 season when they won their first-ever place in the Second



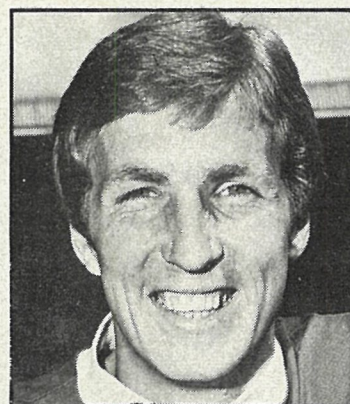
WREXHAM First-Ever Season in The Second Division

Division.

Perhaps the most famous Wrexham player of past years was striker Tom Bamford, who between 1928-34 set up two club goalscoring records that still stand today.

His 44 goals in 1933-34 made him the top League scorer in a season and his 175 goals for the club is an aggregate scoring record.

But many fans will insist Arfon Griffiths, Wrexham's player-manager, with 588 League appearances at the start of the season, is the greatest star of them all.



THE rise of Wrexham has been consolidated this season in one transfer. The Welsh club bought back Joey Jones from Liverpool for £200,000, the previous highest transfer fee being the £60,000 paid to Hereford United for Dixie McNeil.

As several more experienced sides — such as West Ham — have found out, Wrexham have settled well into the rarified air of the Second Division for a team that throughout their history have spent their League career in the Third or Fourth Divisions.

In the past, Wrexham have been more famous for selling than buying good players. Although Mike Thomas joined the list when he signed for Manchester United for £300,000 this season, Wrexham are now in the position to bid for quality players, too, with Steve Fox and David Giles coming in December to join Jones. Manager Arfon Griffiths must be congratulated on the great job he has performed since taking over from John Neal.



Wrexham manager Arfon Griffiths (top of page). Joey Jones (left) cost £200,000. John Roberts (above, left) slides in to rob Orient's Joe Mayo.

PEN PICTURES

(L.App.— League Appearances, Sub.— Substitutes, G.— Goals. All records to end of the 1977-78 season).

LES CARTWRIGHT: Midfielder or winger signed from Coventry City for £40,000 in May, 1977. Welsh international. Born Aberdare. Ht: 5.9. Wt: 10.13. L.App: Coventry 50 and 18 sub, Wrexham 41. G: Coventry 3, Wrexham 4.

DAI DAVIES: Goalkeeper signed from Everton for £8,000 in September, 1977. Davies (right) is a Welsh international. Born Ammanford. Ht: 6.1. Wt: 13.3½. L.App: Everton 83, Swansea (Loan) 6, Wrexham 30.

GARETH DAVIS: Defender and skipper of the team. Signed in October, 1967 as a professional. Welsh international. Born Bangor. Ht: 5.10½. Wt: 11.7. L.App: 374 and 6 sub. G: 8.

ALAN DWYER: Attacking full-back signed professional in October, 1973. Born Liverpool. Ht: 5.7. Wt: 10.7. L.App: 107 and 5 sub. G: 2.

MICKEY EVANS: Defender who joined Wrexham as a forward and has since played in every position, including goal, for the club. Signed from Wolves in July, 1966. Born Gaesws. Ht: 5.10. Wt: 11.2. L.App: 370 and 10 sub. G: 19.

STEVE FOX: Winger signed from



Birmingham City in December, 1978 for £80,000. Born Tamworth. Ht: 5.7¾. Wt: 11.2. L.App: Birmingham 13 and 2 sub. G: Birmingham 2.

DAVID GILES: Midfielder signed from Cardiff City for £30,000 in December, 1978. Born Cardiff. Ht: 5.5. Wt: 10.4. L.App: Cardiff 47 and 8 sub. G: Cardiff 3.

ARFON GRIFFITHS: Midfielder and player-manager. Started career with Wrexham and then had 18 months with Arsenal before returning to his old club. Awarded an MBE and a Welsh international. Born Wrexham. Ht: 5.6. Wt: 10.5. L.App: 583 and 5 sub. in two spells for Wrexham and 15 for Arsenal. G: Wrexham 123, Arsenal 2.

ALAN HILL: Midfielder or defender signed professional in July, 1973. Born Chester. Ht: 5.11. Wt: 11.4. L.App: 58 and 4 sub.

JOEY JONES: Defender signed from Liverpool for record club fee of £200,000 in October, 1978. Welsh international. Joey began his career with Wrexham. Born Llandudno. Ht: 5.10. Wt: 11.7. L.App: Wrexham 98, Liverpool 72. G: Wrexham 2, Liverpool 3.

JOHN LYONS: Striker signed professional in June, 1975. Born Buckley. Ht: 5.11. Wt: 11.12. L.App: 35 and 16 sub. G: 13.

DIXIE MCNEIL: Striker signed from Hereford for £60,000 in September, 1977. Born Melton Mowbray. Ht:

5.10. Wt: 11.12. L.App: Exeter 31, Northampton 84 and 1 sub, Lincoln 96 and 1 sub, Hereford 128 and 1 sub, Wrexham 23. G: Exeter 11, Northampton 33, Lincoln 53, Hereford 85, Wrexham 13.

EDDIE NIEDZWIECKI: Young goalkeeper signed professional in July, 1976. Born Wrexham. Ht: 6.0. Wt: 11.0. L.App: 15.

JOHN ROBERTS: Central defender signed from Birmingham for £30,000 in July, 1976. Welsh international. Born Swansea. Ht: 6.0. Wt: 12.2. L.App: Swansea 36 and 1 sub, Northampton 62, Arsenal 56 and 3 sub, Birmingham 61 and 5 sub, Wrexham 85. G: Swansea 16, Northampton 11, Arsenal 4, Birmingham 1, Wrexham 5.

BOBBY SHINTON: Striker signed from Cambridge for £20,000 in the summer of 1976. Born West Bromwich. Ht: 5.10. Wt: 11.7. L.App: Walsall 78 and 1 sub, Cambridge 99, Wrexham 92. G: Walsall 20, Cambridge 25, Wrexham 31.

MEL SUTTON: Midfielder and assistant player-manager. Signed from Cardiff in July, 1972. Born Birmingham. Ht: 5.10. Wt: 10.10. L.App: Cardiff 135 and 3 sub, Wrexham 249 and 1 sub. G: Cardiff 5, Wrexham 19.

GRAHAM WHITTLE: Striker and top scorer for Wrexham last season. Signed professional in July, 1971. Born Liverpool. Ht: 5.9. Wt: 10.3. L.App: 350 and 10 sub. G: 83.

WREXHAM

The Chronicle

75 LOCAL PAPER
IN YOUR SPORT

Decade Leisure Centre

BACK ROW (left to right): Peter Williams, Alan Dwyer, Mel Sutton, Elvin Edwards, Tony Larkin (now Shrewsbury).
MIDDLE ROW: George Showell (physio), Norman Wilson (Gen-Secretary), Dixie McNeil, Steve Kenworthy, Wayne Cegielski, Eddie Niedzwiecki, Dai Davies, Alan Hill, John Roberts, Les Cartwright, Terry Bates (in charge of Youth Development).
FRONT ROW: John Lyons, Micky Thomas (now Manchester United), Bobby Shinton, Gareth Davies, Arfon Griffiths (manager), Graham Whittle, Micky Evans, Steve Buxton.

SHOOT!